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LD2308124388 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq has "warned" that it will "attack" Iranian troops if they do not withdraw to a specified position in the Nahr 'Anbar region, IRNA reported. An Iraqi armored brigade "began an advance" toward Iranian positions on the southern front 23 August, a military commander told IRNA. Iran's troops in the area have not moved since the cease-fire went into effect, IRNA added.

Iraq lodged a complaint 22 August with the UN observer team against Iranian attempts to "approach the Iraqi border" in the IV Corps sector and to reinforce and redeploy forces in "forward areas," INA reported.

Iraqi units will return the Iranians "to their previous positions by force" if they do not withdraw, the complaint stated.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati cabled the UN secretary general to protest the Iraqi advance and ask for "immediate and necessary measures" to halt Iraqi "violations" of the cease-fire, IRNA reported.

Oil and shipping sources cited by the JORDAN TIMES said Iraq has a "secret pipeline" to the port of Umm Qasr that remained "unscathed" by the war and is "ready to export oil through the Gulf again." IRNA reported the opening of the Bandar-e Khomeyni port.

Lebanon

A Hizballah official urged those "who hold the hostages" to keep them until demands are met "even if death becomes the fate of all," Voice of Lebanon radio and AFP reported. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the Hizballah "guide" in Ba'labakk, said backing off from their demands would be a "defeat" for the kidnappers, the radio added.

Syrian forces are fortifying their positions in Al-Biqa' around Hizballah's Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks, according to "security sources" cited by the clandestine Voice of Truth radio. Hizballah is holding "consultations" with the Syrians to discuss vacating the barracks and turning them over to the Lebanese Army, the sources said.

A U.S. official met with Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih "in complete secrecy" in Paris, according to an "informed source close to Iddih" who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. The source expressed "cautious optimism" about "positive development" in U.S. and Syrian "stands" on Iddih.

Israel

A Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command military spokesman issued a "communique" claiming responsibility for the 20 August Haifa bomb attack as part of a plan to "escalate" Palestinian "armed action," Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio announced. The attacks will continue until the Palestinians "establish their independent state under the PLO," the communique maintained.

A resident of the 'Askar refugee camp was killed by security forces initiating action "in anticipation of the commercial strike," IDF radio reported. The strike was marked by "massive violence" in Gaza as residents of the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps clashed with security forces, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Security forces demolished the houses of three Gaza residents who "threw firebombs" in Dayr al-Balah, the radio added.

The "defense establishment" refused to comment on reports that an "intelligence satellite" will "soon" be launched into orbit, Jerusalem radio revealed. An Israeli Space Agency official said they are "involved" in launching several satellites for "scientific and communications purposes."

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO Executive Committee and PNC Chairmanship ended their 3-day meeting in Tunis after discussing "various issues and developments" in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, Baghdad Voice of the PLO Radio disclosed. They made decisions on "moves in the international arena" to halt the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, the radio added.

During a committee meeting, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called on all Palestinian civil servants in the West Bank to continue to work, MENA announced. A PLO official accused the Syrian Government of preventing an Executive Committee member from leaving Damascus to attend the meeting, Voice of Lebanon radio revealed.

Salah Khalaf told Vienna radio that the Executive Committee would "certainly" proclaim a government-in-exile "either during or after" the next PNC meeting, scheduled for September.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril said his organization will not take part in that meeting, the clandestine Al-Quds radio disclosed. A government-in-exile would "mean the dissolution of the PLO," Jibril declared.

"Popular and nationalist committees" issued Call No 24, carried by Al-Quds radio, which calls for a series of strikes and economic measures in the occupied territories. The call urges Palestinians to form additional local

committees in defiance of the Israeli ban and to take other "positive initiatives," including an end to "reactionary efforts against your leaders."

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a speech to Islamic Call College graduates carried by Tripoli television, accused the Muslim Brotherhood, "working clandestinely in collusion with U.S. intelligence," of bombing a bus "full of senior Syrian officers" and killing "a number of them."

Jordan-UAE

Jordan's King Husayn visited the UAE for 2 days, during which he discussed "current Arab issues" and "ways to bolster bilateral relations" with the UAE President, Amman radio disclosed.

Saudi Arabia

The government has "agreed to hand over" to Pakistan the Shi'ite Muslims arrested during the hajj, Islamabad radio reported, noting the departure of a "senior Pakistani official" for Saudi Arabia "in this connection."

Pakistan

A government representative "strongly refuted" the rumor that martial law has been declared, Islamabad radio announced. He called it a "despicable conspiracy" by an "anticountry element" that wants to spread "chaos and disturbances" throughout the country.

The cabinet has "reaffirmed the government's resolve" to continue its "present Afghan policy" and give "humanitarian assistance" to Afghan refugees, the radio disclosed.

Troops were put on alert against possible "sectarian clashes" at the start of a 2-day religious holiday, AFP reported.

Afghanistan

Rebel attacks "intensified" across the country after the death of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, according to resistance sources cited by AFP. Pakistani troops are providing antiaircraft cover for rebel troops in Khowst district, TASS reported.

Rebels used shells and a mine "filled with toxic substances" to bomb a village in Konarha Province, Moscow radio announced.

In Jalalabad, rebels fired 12 missiles at residential areas, killing 1 person and wounding 2, Kabul radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Warned of Becoming 'Adversary by Default'

LD1908220088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1723 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Washington, Aug 19 (KUNA)—Arab League Clovis Maksoud Friday said there was a greater than even chance Palestinian leaders soon will endorse proposals calling for a provisional Palestinian government.

And he warned unless the U.S. acted quickly to move Israel towards compromise and away from brutal crowd-control measures in the occupied Arab lands, America could become an "adversary by default."

The senior Arab official also derided the Mideast platforms of both 1988 presidential candidates as products of the Israel lobby here. And he charged Israel had violated Lebanon's sovereignty by expelling four Palestinians there.

Maksoud was speaking during a press conference at the Arab League's Washington offices.

Asked by KUNA how hopeful he was that the upcoming Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting would approve the "provisional government" idea, the Arab envoy said,

"I would say the chances are more than 50 percent." And he added while there were "certain reservations" expressed by some Palestinian leaders, they related "not to the concept of the provisional government, but on its timing."

Maksoud stressed, though, that Palestinian and Arab leaders had no intention of "tailoring" the timing of their actions on the matter to "suit the (U.S.) presidential elections."

He noted historically the U.S. has informed the Arab world little progress on the Arab-Israel conflict could be expected during the U.S. election cycle—now in full swing.

Underscoring the seriousness with which the Arab League takes the present circumstances, Maksoud declared,

"So-called 'realists' tell us that during presidential elections you cannot persuade, you cannot discuss, everybody (in the U.S. Administration) is too busy" to deal with the Mideast.

"Yes. But Israel continues on its policies or repression and harassment, deportation, violating the Geneva Convention," he said, raising his voice, "(and) refusing to acknowledge that it is an occupying power."

"(The Arabs') course of action, the determination of their policies are going to be dictated," Maksoud emphasized, "by the national interests of the Palestinians and by the strategic objectives and the tactics required."

The veteran diplomat also blasted the Mideast convention platforms of both the Republican and Democratic parties, accusing them of a "mind-boggling...studied indifference" to the crisis continuing to build in Palestine.

And he said both candidates, Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis, exhibited a "sickening pandering" to the powerful Israeli lobby.

Their views, he asserted, showed the two would-be presidents either "ignored," or were "ignorant of the new realities in the Middle East."

If the next president maintained the uncompromising pro-Israeli stance of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, the U.S. might "become an adversary by default," Maksoud warned.

Seeking to avoid this, and wanting to be friendly with the U.S., he said, "We have to be intrusive and we will have to communicate with the U.S. Arab and Palestinian concerns—regardless of the current U.S. election season."

On the expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon, the senior Arab envoy said gravely,

"Making the occupied South Lebanon a dumping ground for Israel's frustrations by landing Palestinians there, besides violating the Geneva Convention, Israel intends to violate Lebanon's sovereignty—compounding the tragic situation in it at a critical juncture of Lebanon's political development."

Despite these and other ever-harsher announced in recent days by Israel's leaders, Maksoud vowed that the Jewish state "will not crush the intifada (or) the iron will of the Palestinian people." [sentence as received]

PLO's Salah Khalaf on Future Palestinian State

AU2208114988 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Interview with PLO official Salah Khalaf—identified by nom de guerre Abu Iyad—in Vienna on 22 August by Michael Kerbler—recorded; questions in German, Khalaf's answers in Arabic with German translation]

[Text] [Kerbler] Mr Iyad, when will an exile or provisional PLO government be established? Do you already see a date this year for the proclamation of such a provisional government of a Palestinian state?

[Abu Iyad] The PLO Executive Committee is currently studying the proposals of the various political and juridical commissions on this issue. The proclamation of a government will certainly take place after the next session of the Palestinian National Council in September.

[Kerbler] That means that after this meeting in Algiers in September a Palestinian state will be proclaimed.

[Abu Iyad] This year will certainly become the year of the proclamation of a Palestinian government. A government will certainly be proclaimed either during the Council session or afterwards.

[Kerbler] What is the legal basis for the proclamation of such a state by the Palestinians and in which area, on which territory, in which geographic area is this Palestinian state to be proclaimed?

[Abu Iyad] The basis for the proclamation of a Palestinian state will be UN Resolution 181, because this is the only UN resolution that gives us legitimacy. It was adopted in 1947 for the purpose of establishing a Palestinian state in certain areas that were defined at that time. We do not want to blame ourselves for destroying Israel or taking away certain parts of Israel. This is a question of negotiations.

[Kerbler] Recently you gave a well-publicized interview to a French magazine in which you spoke about the recognition of Israel and dialogue with Israel, and also referred to UN Resolution 181. Is the PLO really willing to recognize Israel on the basis of this resolution?

[Abu Iyad] For more than 10 years it has been part of our policy to pursue dialogue and negotiations within international legitimacy in searching for a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The response was permanent rejection on Israel's part. With regard to the question of recognizing Israel, we are waiting for Israel to recognize the Palestinians. We are not willing to precipitously give something away for free. Furthermore, which borders of Israel are we to recognize? To date, Israel has not defined its borders.

[Kerbler] Will the PLO recognize Israel's existence, in principle, no matter which borders are later agreed by the Palestinian state and Israel?

[Abu Iyad] We are realists. Israel is there; Israel exists in political reality. But the juridical question cannot be answered so precipitously. We must also expect the other side to recognize the right of Palestinians to an independent state.

[Kerbler] If Israel's existence is now accepted—even if only in the remote future—by the PLO, for whom do you speak, then? Do you also speak for Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], for instance, and for extremists? This is always a question posed by Israel due to its legitimate need for security. Will the attacks by armed Palestinian units stop when there is a Palestinian state?

[Abu Iyad] Of course, there are different opinions, different organizations, different political groups among every people. Abu Nidal is certainly not a politician and he accepts terror, even against Palestinians and also at the international level. Israel does not need Abu Nidal in order to reject the PLO.

Shamir and the Likud would prefer—even though all admit that 99 percent of the Palestinians are represented by the PLO—to reject any talks with the PLO. Certainly, as soon as we have a Palestinian state there will be a certain order. If there is no Palestinian state, groups such as Abu Nidal's will gain ground.

Khalid al-Hasan Cited on Jordanian Measures

PM1908091588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 88 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Khalid al-Hasan to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: In Amman PLO Delegation Will Discuss Assuming Responsibility for Bank"]

[Excerpts] Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan described the Palestinian independence document leaked in the occupied territories as containing good ideas. In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the Palestinian side will not be afflicted by emotional reactions or confusion in dealing with the Jordanian measures; it will rely on studies.

At the same time Syrian media services yesterday severely criticized Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Algiers yesterday within the framework of his Arab tour. The two political and legal committees formed by the Palestinian Central Council concentrated on studying all aspects related to recent Jordanian measures, ways of filling the administrative vacuum in the West Bank, as well as formulas proposed for a Palestinian state and a government-in-exile.

In a first comment by a senior Palestinian official on the document of the struggler Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Arab Studies Center who was arrested in Jerusalem last week, Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan said that the document contains good ideas about ways of declaring Palestinian independence.

Al-Hasan said: Our kinfolk inside [the occupied territories] have always discussed the affairs of our cause. Both they and we have always exchanged ideas by virtue of the democratic spirit prevailing among us.

He added: Any one carefully examining the document (known as the Faysal al-Husayni document) will find that it is not a declaration of independence. It represents ideas about the declaration of independence.

Khalid al-Hasan referred to Jordan's announcement severing legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank and said: Such a step has made the ideas contained in the Faysal al-Husayni document desirable on the part of our Palestinian masses both at the level of the organizations under the PLO banner and at the level of sound political thinking. If anything, Faysal's document is proof of the unity of thinking among Palestinians inside and outside our homeland. It emphasizes that they are united in their objectives, attitudes, and thinking.

Regarding Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, Khalid al-Hasan reiterated what was announced by the PLO Central Council and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, namely that the step was taken without consulting the PLO.

Al-Hasan said: Regrettably the step was taken at the beginning of an international political vacuum which will last from now until after the U.S. elections.

He added: In conformity with Arab summit resolutions, Jordan is committed to certain obligations toward the West Bank until the land is liberated, but the severance of legal and administrative ties constitutes a breach of such obligations.

Al-Hasan said: It would have been more appropriate if there had been consultation between Jordan and the PLO before the step was taken. Our people have rights which no one can cancel. The step taken casts a heavy shadow on the frequently talked of Palestinian-Jordanian partnership relationship.

On the PLO's ability to shoulder the burdens and responsibilities resulting from the Jordanian decision, Khalid al-Hasan said: This constitutes a challenge which we will not evade. We accept it in fulfillment of our people's struggle, both inside and outside, in order to achieve the objective of freedom and independence.

Khalid al-Hasan added: The results and complications of the Jordanian measure are much greater than living conditions and passports. It has political implications that could produce dangerous results for parties other than the PLO.

Khalid al-Hasan said: The PLO has begun conducting consultations with fraternal and friendly states concerning decisions the PLO is thinking of making. He said: The Palestinian measure prompts the convening of an Arab League meeting and warrants an Arab stand in respect of the obligations and responsibilities the PLO will shoulder, and the Arab states should bear their share. This is by virtue of Arab solidarity and brotherhood.

He added: The results of the visits made by Palestinian delegations to fraternal and friendly states, as well as the results of the studies conducted by the two political and legal committees formed by the Central Council, will be referred to the PNC during its next session. According to these results the PNC will decide on the next measures.

Asked about the issues expected to be discussed by the Palestinian delegation due to arrive Friday in the Jordanian capital, Amman, Khalid al-Hasan said: Many issues will be discussed. What should be handed over and what should be taken over after the Jordanian decision is not the least important. There are many financial and informational issues. There are rights even in divorce; so, what about a serious and important situation such as this at the national and pan-Arab level?

Asked about the measures the PLO is now expected to take, he said: We will not be afflicted by emotional reactions or confusion, we will rely on studies. [passage omitted]

Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that extensive consultations conducted over the past few days among Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO have resulted in an agreement to continue tripartite coordination and moves to give impetus to the peace process, secure a solution to the Palestinian problem, and unify stands on any initiative proposed for a settlement.

The sources said that Egypt has informed both Jordan and the PLO of the need to maintain tripartite coordination over the peace issue without this being affected by the recent Jordanian decisions, in preparation for bringing about a unified stand on the part of all the parties concerned with the Palestinian problem.

The sources said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has asked Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to dispatch accredited Egyptian ambassadors to all states of the world to inform the leaders of these states of Egypt's position on the Jordanian decisions, deliver to them the official Egyptian statement issued in this regard, and coordinate efforts with Jordanian ambassadors.

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports in Cairo indicate that the PLO has received Jordanian assurances that the Jordanian stand will not affect the Palestinian presence in Jordan, and joint Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is continuing to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian residents in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Discusses Jordan's Recent Measures

PM1900102700 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Aug 88 pp 22-23

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya by S.Q.; place, date not specified]

[Text] [S.Q.] The Central Council's statement issued a few days ago says that you were surprised by the recent Jordanian step. Why were you surprised, in that this issue had been raised a long time ago?

[Al-Yahya] It is known that Jordanian-Palestinian unionist relations are especially unique and clearly distinctive. This means that any step taken by one party must be known to the other. The Jordanian measure in question was not taken in response to an official request from the PLO. It was taken, so it seems, after Jordan comprehensively considered Palestinian-Jordanian relations as a whole, in addition to Arab and Palestinian desires.

For this reason, and on the basis of these special and distinctive relations, and in view of the fact that any measures or steps taken must serve these relations, we would have expected Jordan, before embarking on such a step, to keep us informed and consult with us on it. But, it came as a surprise because there was no prior consultation and also because of the timing of the step.

[S.Q.] But as is known, King Husayn met with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] at the recent Algiers summit and this issue was supposed to have been discussed at their meetings.

[Al-Yahya] The truth is that this issue was not discussed in the way you mention. Discussions at the Algiers summit and at the meeting between King Husayn and Abu 'Ammar focused on the joint delegation issue as well as the independent state issue. Thus, what the king announced was a surprise to the Palestinian leadership in respect both of the failure to make prior consultation and the timing of the measure.

[S.Q.] Surely during his recent tours, which included a number of Arab states, King Husayn must have briefed these states on what he was going to do. Did you not receive anything in this respect prompting you to move quickly and send a delegation to Jordan to discuss the issue?

[Al-Yahya] Certainly we did not receive any prior information from any Arab quarter. But, I carried a message from King Husayn to Abu 'Ammar the day before the king delivered his speech. The message indicated that Jordan was intending to take certain measures at the level of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, but no specific details were given.

[S.Q.] Do you mean that the message made no reference to Jordan's intention to disengage itself from the West Bank?

[Al-Yahya] No, no reference was made to this point at all.

[S.Q.] Jordan has begun to implement the measures resulting from the decision taken. What move is the PLO expected to make?

[Al-Yahya] We are studying all aspects of this measure thoroughly so we can make the right decision and adopt the right approach. In this context, various committees have been formed. They are now continuing their meetings at different places to discuss all political, administrative, and legal aspects. In view of the reports of these committees, the leadership will hold a special meeting to discuss Palestinian measures and moves after the Jordanian step.

[S.Q.] Will this meeting be held before the PNC session called for recently?

[Al-Yahya] Certainly.

[S.Q.] Do you believe that Jordan may go back on what it has begun? And are there any Arab mediations to prevent any future disputes between you and the Jordanian Government?

[Al-Yahya] I cannot answer this question. First, because I have not been informed of any Arab move of this sort. Second, because I believe that the fraternal Arab states need time to study a question of such weight in order for them to define their final position.

[S.Q.] If the measures being implemented by Jordan reach the point of withdrawing passports from West Bank residents, what will the Palestinian leadership do? Will it request passports from the United Nations, or will it issue passports under Arab League jurisdiction?

[Al-Yahya] I do not believe that there is any inclination to withdraw passports from Palestinian citizens in the West Bank. Everyone must realize that this cannot be done in the way or at the speed talked about. A few days ago I met with Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. During the meeting, which was held between the two of us only, I expressed the PLO leadership's desire for a Palestinian delegation to make an urgent visit to Jordan. This is in the knowledge that such a meeting was supposed to have taken place before recent developments occurred.

[S.Q.] Since March there has been an official invitation for Abu 'Ammar to visit Jordan. Will one of the delegation's tasks be to arrange for the visit?

[Al-Yahya] The delegation's visit may achieve some results that would help implement the visit Abu 'Ammar was supposed to have made some time ago, but which was postponed for numerous objective reasons. As far as I know the invitation still stands and Abu 'Ammar still intends to respond to it. But now in view of the Jordanian measures the matter requires further preparations.

[S.Q.] You said that you recently carried a message from King Husayn to Abu 'Ammar. Apart from that message, was there any direct contact between them?

[Al-Yahya] No. No direct contacts between them were made during that period.

[S.Q.] What is the fate of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee formed to deal with the support and steadfastness funds. Does the Jordanian measure mean that the committee is automatically dissolved?

[Al-Yahya] I have not been informed of anything of this kind.

[S.Q.] What about the funds themselves; what is their fate, and which quarter will deal with them?

[Al-Yahya] I said that we have not been informed that the committee has now been dissolved. And this means that it still exists. I personally understand that the committee will continue.

[S.Q.] Regarding a provisional government or a government-in-exile, will this be included on the agenda of the upcoming PNC session.

[Al-Yahya] This issue requires thorough consideration. But I will try to say something in this context which could help you understand what is happening. It can be said that the Jordanian measure to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank has placed the entire Palestinian problem in a new important and sensitive phase. This is because it has created a new political reality. Thus, new methods and understanding are needed to deal with it, especially as it comes at a time when the Palestinian popular uprising is deeply rooted.

The Jordanian measure has opened the door for the restoration of Palestinian national sovereignty over Palestinian territory, especially as the uprising has crystallized the legal and national Palestinian identity for it. According to international law, it is known that occupation does not eliminate national sovereignty, but delays and restricts it only without transferring it to the occupying state. On this basis the PLO is now preparing studies, via the committees to which I referred, on the situation resulting from the Jordanian measure. Therefore, in view of the results reached by the specialized committees, the PNC session which is to be convened in the near future, will endorse the requisite step.

[S.Q.] What you are saying indicates that from now on the provisional government issue must be considered quickly.

[Al-Yahya] This is true. But I emphasize that this issue is not as easy as some imagine. It requires thorough legal and administrative studies because it is very complicated, since it involves existing facts and unprecedented exceptional circumstances.

[S.Q.] For a long time the PLO has been talking of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state preceded by a provisional government or a government-in-exile. Now that a long period of time has elapsed the Palestinian people are surprised that their leadership still has no comprehensive concept of such a sensitive issue.

[Al-Yahya] There is a comprehensive concept of and studies on such issues. But, as is known, each case requires certain methods. It must be studied and compared with the other studies we have conducted. I am not saying the Jordanian measure has created a vacuum. It has created a new and specific situation. Thus, what is required is measures both parallel with and firmly linked to it, otherwise confusing errors will occur.

[S.Q.] Some say the Jordanian measure indicates King Husayn is the first Arab leader to recognize the independent Palestinian state. Can we say such a state has actually been born?

[Al-Yahya] I reiterate what I said earlier; namely, that via the uprising a legal and national Palestinian identity has been crystallized on the ground. This means the Palestinian people, via their current revolution, have brought about a new reality that is in harmony with the provisions of international law. The basic condition for accentuating the legal identity is rejection of the occupation via a practical measure on the ground. And I believe no measure on the ground is as brilliant or strong as that which the uprising is inciting.

As this means that the legal identity of the Palestinian people has crystallized on the ground, the Jordanian measure came as a complementary element, opening the door for the restoration of Palestinian sovereignty.

[S.Q.] This means you assess positively the measure taken by King Husayn.

[Al-Yahya] In fact, Palestinian Central Council resolutions have referred to this fact. But obviously I must refer to the point I talked about earlier, that is, the element of timing and lack of consultation.

[S.Q.] The question now is: Will political moves by the PLO and Jordan regarding the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis be governed by relations similar to those maintained among other Arab states or will there be special exceptions?

[Al-Yahya] The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship will remain special and distinct. It will continue to assume a form different from the reality governing relations among other Arab states.

Possible Provisional Government Discussed

JN2108114588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Aug 88 p 5

[By Anji Rushdi]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan is currently in Cairo. He has visited Cairo many times before, but the circumstances and developments in the Palestinian arena are now different. There is a Jordanian decision to disengage links with the West Bank and there is talk about the proclamation of an independent state on

Palestinian territory, as well as many other issues. Hani al-Hasan spoke about these topics: He said Jordan's recent measure is a step in the right direction, is in line with Arab resolutions, and is the first practical embodiment of Jordan's commitment to the 1974 Rabat summit resolution stating that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Hani al-Hasan added that the Jordanian decision proves that Jordan does not support the Jordanian option on which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Peres have been insisting. He added: The commitment to the Arab summit resolutions impose the Palestinian option. He said: We understand the Jordanian decision and Jordan's justifications for taking this step and we are now preparing to adopt the steps this practical measure requires.

[Rushdi] Has this been an explicit and clear demand or has it been a future objective?

Al-Hasan said: We did not ask for such a a measure and we were also not consulted on it. But it was inevitable. Following the blessed uprising in the occupied territories, it was inevitable that some distancing take place leading to rapprochement for resuming cooperation between Jordan and the PLO on clear foundations, based on mutual trust. Jordan took such a step unilaterally. The most important aspect of this measure is the termination of the intermixing of responsibilities as Jordan restricted its responsibilities to the East Bank.

Jordan also announced its commitment that the PLO's responsibilities will be in the West Bank. That's why our reaction to this measure has been to work toward moving from the stage of political distancing toward rapprochement to define the PLO's responsibilities toward the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in all the fraternal Arab countries, and abroad in preparation for national independence.

I told him: One clearly notices that there is some kind of Palestinian confusion?

Al-Hasan interrupted me by saying: The PLO has not been confused by this Jordanian measure because nothing has changed on the ground from the administrative standpoint. The 5,300 employees whose salaries used to be paid by Jordan are now receiving four-fifths of their salaries. This is their legitimate right stipulated under the law.. Therefore, they continue to receive salaries and this has not resulted in any additional burdens on us.

[Rushdi] There is a call in Israel to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to confront the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state?

Hani al-Hasan said: The time has gone when Israel could do whatever it wants and act arrogantly toward the Palestinian people. He said that the Palestinian child and generations of Palestinian struggle, particularly the struggle during the era of Yasir 'Arafat and his brothers, have created new facts which have turned the Palestinian cause into a topical international issue in which not only political officials are interested, but also world public opinion.

He said: We all notice that the distinctive trait of the current phase is that the Palestinian people's cause and their right to their land and homeland has also become a domestic issue for the Israelis. Israeli parties are divided over it. Shamir knows that if he annexes the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he will be opposed by those who from a racist standpoint want Israel to remain purely Jewish. Shamir also knows that the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip means the cancellation of Israel's commitment under the peace treaty, thus also giving Egypt the right to exonerate itself from other points.

Shamir knows that there has been a de facto annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip over the past 20 years. As a result of this, a Palestinian giant and the stone generals emerged. Shamir also knows that the United States at this stage wants a solution to the Palestinian cause as it cannot find a solution that is based on either annexation or the imposition of a political solution on the Palestinian people.

We now have clear programs and definite objectives, and we are certain that Shamir now is in a dilemma. He no longer has the initiative. It is true that a hazelnut should be broken if it is to be eaten. Shamir is different from Peres who resorts to maneuvering and who exploits the international state of affairs to fulfill his objectives. In any case, we are lying in wait for both of them.

[Rushdi] So what are your plans and objectives for the coming phase?

He said: It must be clear to everyone, and I am saying this from a position of responsibility, careful deliberation and planning will be our advantage over the Israeli mind, which will now be called upon to make historic decisions for the first time since the establishment of the Israeli state—decisions which would practically lead to the collapse of the Zionist ideology, which was based on the theory of Greater Israel and Judaea and Samaria.

The characteristic of the current phase is still one of struggle, whether on political or other levels. The only difference is that the struggle in this phase will, God willing, lead to the great victory: namely, the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. If we fail, then it would be a great disaster. We are, therefore, waging a decisive battle in a crucial historic phase.

The Palestinian mind has proven its ability to move from the phase of strategic defense, which has continued the confrontation with Israel from 1965 to 1987, the year

of the beginning of the uprising, to the phase of strategic offense in the phase of strategic decisiveness, when the great political objectives shall be achieved.

The question now posed is: What is our course toward establishing the national authority in the occupied territory?

We should begin by the Palestinian people's announcement of the declaration of national independence. This should be followed by the establishment of a Palestinian government whose task should be to draw up a plan for the establishment of the Palestinian state which is liberated from Israeli occupation and the official institutions of this state.

The first struggle task of this government should be to gain the recognition of the United Nations, which means that the United States should not object in the Security Council to the membership of this state and its provisional government in the world body, and to prepare for the international conference which would discuss a lasting comprehensive solution. This shows the numerous issues which must be tackled to render the declaration of the state and its government a success.

Therefore, extensive studies are underway to lay the necessary legal groundwork, which will enable us to benefit from international legality, and to work out the tactics which will enable us to attract Israel and its government to the international peace conference and also to make it understand that there is no escape from coming to an understanding with the Palestinian people through their provisional government to ensure peace and security for everyone.

[Rushdi] The talk about the provisional government is not new. Why did you reject it in the past and accept it now?

He said: Every national liberation movement aspires to crown its struggle with liberation and national independence. Its aim is to declare a government and a state. But all this depends on the availability of the appropriate local and international circumstances. These circumstances were created by the uprising, which is a culmination of the strategic offensive experienced by the Palestinian revolution during the past 22 years. The uprising has transferred the revolution's main active body from the outside to the inside. The present situation can be described by saying that the body and main forces of the Palestinian people's revolution are now in the occupied territory while the source of support is outside this territory.

[Rushdi] There is talk now about going back to Resolution 181 on partition, while there is also Resolution 242 which talks about the inadmissibility of the seizure of the occupied territory and calls for the return to the 1967 borders. Is this not a contradiction?

He said: Israel is the only state which agreed to join the United Nations under conditions. For instance, it agreed to the condition to implement Resolution 181 which calls for the partition of Palestine into two states; a Jewish state and an Arab state. We consider this resolution, which was approved by all nations without exception, as the legal international basis for establishing the Palestinian state in Palestine. As for Resolution 242, we have no objection if it also includes the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. It thus becomes a suitable basis for the international conference.

I said: What is the status of Gaza?

He said: Precious, beloved Gaza is not a party to the disengagement of the Jordanian link with the West Bank, because it is not a Jordanian responsibility. The increasing talk about the West Bank these days is due to the fact it was Jordan which took the first step in this respect.

Egypt recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It has expressed this stand in all of its political actions. It does not want to represent the Palestinians or join in this representation.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Meet To Discuss Production

BK2008092588 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0720 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), August 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Three OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers commenced their meeting here Saturday morning to discuss the latest developments of the world oil price and the oil output of the three participating countries, viz Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. The three countries are represented by Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita of Indonesia, Malaysia's Oil Minister Encik Kasitah bin Gadam, and Brunei's Development Minister Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit. The three ASEAN member countries' current oil output reaches about two million barrels per day, with Indonesia producing 1.3 million, Malaysia 480,000 to 500,000, and Brunei Darussalam 150,000 barrels per day.

Ginanjar took the initiative in holding the informal meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC members, in his capacity of OPEC liaison official, and there is always the possibility of making an approach to other oil producing countries in Asia and the Pacific, such as Australia, after the meeting.

Like Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei are also LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) exporting countries, with Indonesia as the world number one producer and exporter of the commodity, namely about 19 million tons per annum.

The Indonesian delegation to the first-stage meeting, led by Minister Ginanjar, includes Pertamina's newly installed President Director Faisal Abda'u, Oil and Gas Director General Suyitno Patmosukismo, and Wiyarso, one of the minister's special aides.

The Malaysian delegation led by the minister at the Malaysian prime minister's office, Encik Kasitah bin Gadam, includes Oil Development Director H. Mohamed Khatib bin Abdul and Petronas chief Zohari Zaharun, while the Brunei delegation is led by Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit, who is in the company of Oil Director Awang Haji Abdul Khani bin Haji Mohamed Salleh.

The first-stage meeting includes playing golf at Bedugul, followed at 6:30 p.m. local time by second-stage talks, and to be concluded at a meeting with the press at the Pertamina cottages.

Support Price Stabilization

BK2208043588 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0226 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), August 22 (OANA-ANTARA)—Malaysia and Brunei support Indonesia in its struggle to stabilize the world oil price through the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The oil ministers of the three countries made the statement after second stage of their consultation meeting here on Saturday [20 August].

Brunei's Oil Minister [title as received] H. Ismail reiterated his country's stand that OPEC and non-OPEC members should adhere to the quota distribution for the sake of maintaining a stable world oil price. Brunei has been deeply concerned with the presence of overproduction in the oil producing countries so that this country has to reduce its production from 200,000 barrels a day in 1980's to 150,000 barrels.

Malaysia's Oil Minister [title as received] Kasitah bin Gaddam said that his country always seeks for stabilizing the world oil price. In the last two years, this country has reduced its production by 17.5 percent to a level between 400,000 and 500,000 barrels a day.

Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita said that the three countries had discussed the development in the world oil price, the relationship of the OPEC and non-OPEC members and market prospects including that in Japan. "These three ASEAN member countries do not compete although they market most of their oil production to Japan", he said.

The ministers of the three countries agreed to hold a periodic consultation meeting. They will meet again at the end of November after the OPEC meeting which is scheduled on November 21. "I will report the results of the OPEC meeting to our colleagues from Malaysia and Brunei," Ginanjar said.

Asked whether the three countries plan to set up an organization called OAPEC (the Organization of Arabic Petroleum Exporting Countries), he said that the most important thing is not an organization or an agency but a role.

Ginanjar considered the informal meeting quite effective and has brought new values and meanings. The three ministers do not close the possibility of an organization like an OAPEC if it is considerd urgent and necessary. Therefore, Malaysia and Brunei as non-OPEC members wish to recognize more about OPEC, Ginanjar said .

South Asia Regional Affairs

SAARC Antiterrorism Convention Takes Effect

BK2308051888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] The SAARC regional convention on suppression of terrorism comes into effect today. The convention was signed at the meeting of foreign ministers of the seven countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Kathmandu last November.

Among others, the following have been categorized by SAARC as acts of terrorism: the offenses which come within the scope of the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, and the 1973 New York Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally-Protected Persons. The convention recommends cooperation among member nations to prevent acts of terrorism.

Algeria

Mali's Traore Stops Over, Talks with Ibrahimi

LD2208013688 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The Western Sahara has been discussed during a technical stopover in Algiers by the Malian president, Moussa Traore. In a statment to the press, the acting president of the OAU stressed that the prospects for peace in the Western Sahara had been strengthened considerably following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi greeted the Malian head of state on behalf of President Chadli Bendjedid. The two men reviewed several African political matters of current interest. President Moussa Traore was on his way to Oslo to attend the conference organized by the UN High Commission for Refugees on displaced persons in southern Africa.

Chad

Libyan Overflight, Clashes in Sidra Reported

AB2208195888 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Libyan fighter planes yesterday flew over three localities in the north of the country. They are Ounianga Kebir and Ouadi Doum in the Borkou, and Oumou in the Tibesti. These three localities in northern Chad were flown over at 0800, 0815 and between 0600 and 0830 respectively. It must also be noted that on 18 August clashes between Chadians and elements of the Libyan forces, who were rounding up people, took place in Sidra. Results: four dead and several wounded. Among the dead is (Yaya Mbida).

Habre Receives Togolese Envoy, Eyadema Message

AB2206215688 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Head of State Hissein Habre this afternoon received the Togolese minister of the interior who was accompanied by President Gnassingbe Eyadema's adviser. The Togolese minister came to deliver a message from the Togolese head of state to President Hissein Habre. After the audience, the Togolese envoy fielded questions from the national press. Let us listen to Komlan Agbetiafa speaking to Radio Chad and national television correspondents Mbaillo Djan and Antoine-Marie Tuto.

[Begin recording] [Agbetiafa] I would like to thank President Hissein Habre for receiving us promptly. You are aware he has a busy schedule, but he found the time to receive us promptly. We came to deliver a message to the Chadian head of state. This message is part of the good, friendly, and fraternal relations between Togo and Chad. You are also aware that African heads of state regularly consult one another. Thus it is within this framework that our head of state asked us to come and deliver a message to the Chadian head of state.

[Reporter] New developments have occurred in Chadian-Libyan conflicts. What is Togo's position as far as this conflict is concerned?

[Agbetiafa] Togo is Chad's friend and President Eyadema has visited your country, including Ndjamena, several times. When Chad was facing serious problems, President Eyadema came to Ndjamena to strengthen the reconciliation between Chadians. Consequently Eyadema has always backed Chad's positions and only wishes that peace returns to Chad so development can take place in the interest of the Chadian people for its welfare and dignity. [end recording]

It must be added that the talks between the Togolese minister of the interior and President Hissein Habre lasted 1 hour and 17 minutes. Chadian Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahamat Itno and permanent undersecretary to the president of the Republic, Mr (Ahmed Gouffa), also attended the meeting.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Saudi Arabia, Pakistan

NC2208194988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 22 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived at Al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria from Jedda tonight following a 2-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his visit to Pakistan, where he participated in the funeral of late Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid was welcomed at the airport by senior Foreign Ministry officials.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr 'Abd al-Majid disclosed that President Husni Mubarak had asked him to convey his condolences and those of the Egyptian people on the death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He added that President Ziaul Haq had been a great personality not only in Pakistan, but throughout the Islamic world. 'Abd al-Majid said that the late Pakistani president had maintained very strong relations with Egypt.

The foreign minister stressed: We were proud of Ziaul Haq's friendship. He expressed hope that the Pakistani leadership and people will surmount this sudden shock and that stability and national unity will prevail in Pakistan, as was the case during the era of departed President Ziaul Haq. He pointed out that all indications are that Pakistan will follow the course charted by the late president.

Regarding his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who deputized for President Ronald Reagan at the funeral of President Ziaul Haq, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the meeting provided an opportunity to hold consultations and to exchange views on vital issues of common interest.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that Shultz emphasized, during the meeting, the United States' determination to proceed with the peace process. He said: We agreed to meet during the forthcoming UN General Assembly session, which will be held in New York in September.

Referring to his visit to Saudi Arabia, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he seized the opportunity of being in Jeddah to meet with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation. He added that he conveyed President Husni Mubarak's good wishes for the prince's recovery from his recent surgery.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added: This was a good opportunity to discuss important issues with Prince Sultan. The foreign minister pointed out that he had sensed a full understanding and identity of views between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

On coordination between Saudi Arabia and Egypt following Jordan's decision to sever its links with the West Bank, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: I discussed this issue with Prince Sultan. Contacts are continuing with Saudi Arabia in its capacity as a fraternal country with which we have good and strong relations. We seize every opportunity to hold consultations and coordinate with senior Saudi officials. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid on U.S.-Palestinian Contacts

PM2208151688 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 11 Aug 88 pp 1,13

[Unattributed report: "Disagreement Over Some Palestinian Figures Postponed Meeting Between Palestinians and Murphy in Cairo"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 'UMAN's correspondent—Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has emphasized the depth and distinctiveness of relations between the fraternal peoples of Oman and Egypt in general and brotherly relations between his majesty the sultan and his brother his excellency the Egyptian president. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that efforts are being made by Egypt in coordination with both Jordan and the PLO toward giving impetus to the peace process and working to recover the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

On U.S.-Palestinian contacts via Cairo, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed out that the United States desired to meet with Palestinian officials. He said: Egypt made endeavors in this regard in the light of Richard Murphy's visit to Cairo, but there is disagreement over some figures. On this basis, it has been decided to postpone the meeting for the time being. [passage omitted]

On the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over the Tabah enclave and the U.S. attempt to bring about a reconciliatory solution ouside arbitration, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the United States is endeavoring to settle this dispute outside the framework of arbitration.

He said: Egypt listens to points raised by Israel, but by no means will this affect the course of arbitrary procedures. These are continuing and a ruling in Egypt's favor is expected to be passed in September, God willing. He added that if a settlement is not reached outside arbitration, the issue goes before the tribunal, whose decision will be binding and must be implemented. [passage omitted]

Discusses POW's, Tabah, Libya

PM2208151288 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 14 Aug 88 p 7,9

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Dr 'Abd al-Hamid al-Muwafi in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Muwafi] The urgent problem now is the presence of 11,000 Egyptian detainees in Iran. It has been reported that Iranian-Egyptian contacts are being made in one form or another over this issue. Your Excellency, what is the future of these contacts and is it possible to reach an agreement over the detainees in view of recent contacts made in this regard?

['Abd al-Majid] For more than a year, we have been making contacts through the Red Cross to collect information about Egyptian POW's in Iran. Regrettably, we have been unsuccessful. Iran has not responded to our efforts. Of course, we still hope to receive such information. The situation now is different: Iran has accepted Security Council Resolution 598. One important clause of this resolution provides for the exchange of POW's in general, not one nationality to the exclusion of another. This means that all POW's detained in Iran would be exchanged.

This will be implemented in the light of direct negotiations to be held 25 August. And we hope this will bring something good and lead to a solution to the problem of the Egyptian as well as other POW's detained by the Iranian Government, in addition to the release of the Iranian POW's detained by the Iraqi Government. [passage omitted]

[Al-Muwafi] To what extent could recent Jordanian measures affect the question of Palestinian representation?

[‘Abd al-Majid] A Palestinian delegation has arrived in Jordan, which is a good sign in line with what Egypt is calling for, namely, the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Our position on Jordan’s decisions is known. Egypt has always called on the Jordanian brothers to maintain coordination, cooperation, and understanding. There is no solution to the Palestinian problem other than Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. The arrival of a Palestinian delegation in Amman is a positive step.

[Al-Muwafi] Yitzhaq Shamir rejected recent calls to annex the West Bank. Of course, this was not a kind of abstinence, but rather awareness of what could result from such a decision. Instead, Shamir proposed that a settlement be reached within the framework of Camp David. How does Egypt visualize such a settlement, in the knowledge that it had clearly declared that the framework of Camp David had died?

[‘Abd al-Majid] We must know openly that Egypt does not agree to annexation because this [the West Bank] is Palestinian territory and will remain Palestinian territory. Annexation or imposing solutions by force did not and will not bring any benefit. Proof of this is that 20 years has elapsed since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but matters are still unstable in Israel in this regard.

The solution we are proposing is for all parties, including the PLO, to meet within the framework of an international conference under UN auspices and that negotiation be conducted within that framework in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace guaranteeing the rights of all the parties: Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Lebanese, and Syrians, as well as anyone involved in the problem. Anything other than this, such as annexation or the use of force, will achieve nothing. Our stand is clear.

[Al-Muwafi] Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, recent contacts outside arbitration achieved nothing regarding the Tabah problem. Besides, the arbitration decision will be issued 29 September and the Israeli elections will be held during the September-November period. Will another round of negotiations outside arbitration be held?

[‘Abd al-Majid] Regarding latest developments in the Tabah problem, you know that the first stage, which has ended, included hearings, the submission of documents, the testimonies of witnesses and experts, and deliberation. We are now in the final stage, waiting for a decision from the arbitration tribunal, which is expected at the end of September and we hope will be in our favor. There have been attempts outside arbitration as we held several meetings in Cairo and elsewhere, but there are still differing viewpoints. But there is a fundamental principle as far as Egypt is concerned, namely, that Egypt is demanding sovereignty over Tabah, though we are ready to take some measures that do not contradict Egyptian sovereignty over the area. We are not rejecting any dialogue or talks in this regard, but it must be made clear that Egypt will not accept the postponement of arbitration procedures nor will Egypt accept any measures harming its sovereignty: Our right to this area is clear.

[Al-Muwafi] Recently contacts have been initiated among the Arab Maghreb states to draw up a formula for cooperation among them. Will this affect Egyptian security, especially as Libya is one of the states taking part in these efforts?

[‘Abd al-Majid] I do not believe Egyptian national security will be affected by this. Egypt has always supported unity, coordination, and cooperation among the Arab states in the east and the west. We cannot imagine that an Arab Maghreb state threatens Egypt’s security. Differences between us and Libya still exist and the reasons are known. In fact, the differences are not with the Libyan people, but with the Libyan leadership, which has its own line and method, on which not only we disagree but a large number of Arab and African states as well. In this regard, we wish the Maghreb every success. Undoubtedly, uniting stands is in the Arabs’ interest.

[Al-Muwafi] Will this prompt further reactivation of Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[‘Abd al-Majid] Egyptian-Sudanese relations are excellent, praise be to God. They are cordial and as good as one could possibly wish. We are pained by natural disasters in Sudan and Egypt has attempted to help Sudan extricate itself from the dangers posed by floods. We and Sudan are very close and there are no problems [between us].

[Al-Muwafi] Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, the Lebanese presidential elections have entered a crucial stage. The new president must be elected. Egypt has adopted a specific stand regarding the Arab role in Lebanon. It has been reported recently that agreement has been reached on candidates for the presidency and the premiership and others. How does Egypt view what is happening and what could happen in Lebanon?

[‘Abd al-Majid] We wish Lebanon and the Lebanese people stability and peace. We hope they will reach an acceptable formula through which Lebanon would begin to restore its entity and unity in order to participate, as it has always done, in constructive Arab action. We hope Lebanon will return to what it used to be, an oasis of security and stability for its people and those around it. This is without going into details. [passage omitted]

Canadian Defense Minister Stops Over in Cairo

NC2208175388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister Paul Wyatt Dick arrived in Cairo from Islamabad tonight for a visit to Egypt which will last a few hours.

During his visit to the Pakistani capital, the Canadian defense minister had conveyed condolences on the death of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The Canadian minister is scheduled to leave Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday.

Leaves Cairo 23 Aug

NC2308100988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Aug (MENA)—Canadian Defense Minister Paul Wyatt Dick left Cairo for home this morning after an overnight stop on his way back from Islamabad. During his stay in Islamabad, the Canadian defense minister conveyed condolences to Pakistani officials on the death of President Ziaul Haq.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Islamic Call Graduates

LD2208121288 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to graduates of the Islamic Call College in Tripoli 18 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Oh brothers: I welcome you at your second conference for graduates of the World Islamic Call College, and of its branch in Damascus, and congratulate you on your graduation from this college. I regard you as if you were at home because the home of Islam is a home for all Muslims, and I do not consider you foreigners or guests here in your land, Libya.

In the beginning, I would like to address high appreciation to the lecturers who supervised your study and graduation. I also value the efforts of the World Islamic Call Society and consider the World Islamic Call College in Tripoli and its branch in Damascus as a scientific and fundamental base for the spread of Islam by science and by means befitting the age, away from deceit, legerdemain, and superstitions, which are distant from science and the spirit of the age. I call for taking the initiative to open branches of this college in all parts of the wide Islamic world. [applause]

Your country, Libya, as a prominent, leading member in the Islamic group, will contribute from its state budget to the building and setting up of these branches in the Islamic world. By following this course, Islam will progress little by little in firm and scientific steps to sweep before it the heaps of ignorance, apostasy, and paganism that still exist in various parts of the world and especially in Africa, and to sweep away the other attempts against the spread of Islam and those who are against the very existance of Islam.

Oh brothers, you have a responsibility to shoulder and I entrust you with a mission, esteemed professors and graduates. This responsibility and that mission is the mission of jihad for the sake of spreading Islam through wisdom and good lessons, and through discussion and better argument. We should not resort to the sword only when argument fails and we find no heeding or conscious ears.

Brothers, professors, and graduates: Upon you and upon those who will graduate from this college after you lies this responsibility. You must shoulder the burden of this mission, men and women, graduates of this World Islamic Call College and its branches. As you are graduating now, you will find that Islam faces challenges and perils that are not easy. You must know that Islam was the target in the era of Western colonialism. The latest wave of colonialism was the wave of Western colonialism. This colonialism sprang from Western Christian countries. The wave of Western colonialism came after the era of the Crusader wars.

Therefore, when the European Christians came to the Third World to colonize Africa and Asia, well of course they meant to colonize the whole world, but they had more rancor toward the Islamic world, in particular. Therefore they exerted the whole of their anger and violence against the Islamic world because they were still reacting to the Crusades. They did not want to see the Crusades repeated, Islam reemerging, or Andalusia happening again. When they managed to extend their hegemony over the world, including the Islamic world, they knew that it was a historic opportunity to destroy Islam once and for all, so there would not be another Andalusia, another crusade, or more Islamic conquests.

A good example of this is when General Allenby, who colonized Syria, went to Saladin's grave, hit it with his foot, and said: Here we are, Saladin; we have returned. This means the recent Western colonization was a vengeance and a reaction to the Crusades and the Jihad movement Saladin led, that means Allenby came to take revenge against Saladin after the latter's demise. This has re-affirmed to us, as Allenby said, that modern European colonialism was against the Muslim, to avenge the Crusades and their defeat by Saladin al-'Ayyubi.

Saladin al-'Ayyubi was not an Arab; he was a Kurd. The Kurdish nation is an Islamic nation, a sisterly nation of the Arab nation, the Persian nation, and the Turkish nation. It is also a neighbor of those three nations. We have repeatedly asserted that the Kurdish nation should be united, get its independence, and take its place in the Near East beside those three Islamic nations. This means that colonialism, Allenby and others, were not aiming at the Arab homeland because it was populated by Arabs; they aimed at it because it was the homeland of Islam. They wanted to take revenge against Saladin, who, as we have already said, was an Islamic leader and was not even an Arab.

The outcome of this colonialist era was the mistreatment of Muslims and pressures brought to bear upon the Islamic world. The West European Christian colonialists decided to convert as many Muslims to Christianity as possible. They succeeded in converting a number of them in Africa. They managed to convert children from their Islamic faith. They adopted those who were converted, whether Muslims or pagans; they extended to them the necessary care and education, and enabled them to rule those countries which were under their hegemony.

They built churches, particularly in Africa so they could become centers of spiritual domination by European-Western colonialism over African nations. Today many missions are spread widely in Africa and Asia. We already announced that there is a plan to Christianize Indonesia—and it is one of the biggest Islamic nations—over a period of 50 years. This is proceeding according to plan. The process of the missionaries converting Muslims in Indonesia and that area and even in Africa to Christianity has been proceeding according to this plan. The World Council of Churches and the Western powers sponsor this plan.

Many Islamic nations are ruled by authorities who are not Islamic. This occurs especially in Africa. Islamic identity is being obliterated to a large extent. Many people will not believe it when we say that Kenya is an Islamic state. This is because it has a Muslim majority. When we say Tanzania is an Islamic state, it is because the vast majority in Tanzania are Muslims. And in Mozambique, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, and beyond the equator the vast majority is Islamic, but it is being obliterated and conquered as a result of Western colonialism.

I talk about this subject, not because we, as Muslims, are being religious fanatics or because we hate others because they are not Muslims. It must be made clear that we are on the defensive in the face of the injustice which happened to us. It was flagrant injustice. This injustice materially harmed our homelands. They colonized us and they turned mosques into churches. They obliterated our civilization and they burned our books which contain our heritage and our history. They burned our religious books. They forced us to change our faith. Others did all this to us.

Today we are still confronted by injustice, and we live this reality. Consequently this battle faces you. This is not a story that has ended. No, it has not ended. This is an issue which we are experiencing today. Therefore, we must face it.

This responsibility falls on you; you bear this mission. This is because you are spread all over the Islamic world. God willing, more groups will come and cover the rest of the Islamic world. Radiance will emanate from this place to illuminate the Islamic world. We do not call for invasions or the burning of Bibles or the demolishing of churches, but we are defending ourselves.

This is the first fact; it is a historic truth, brothers. It is that the Western colonialists came with their crusading hatred against the Islamic world and they persecuted it. They forced our children to give up the faith of their folk. They enabled minorities who have the same faith as theirs to dominate those who held our faith and who happened to be the majority. This is an injustice. And this is the truth about Western colonialism in the Islamic world. In the land of Islam the West behaved with a hateful and crusader spirit which differed from the spirit which was adopted in countries they had already colonized which were not Islamic. This is one truth.

The other truth is that we today are experiencing the result of this crusader colonialism. Its effects are still there: A minority rules the majority. Christians dominate Muslims. Churches dominate in an Islamic country. It is a battle to eradicate our history and our beliefs, a distortion of Islam, a psychological, political propaganda war against Islam which we are experiencing today.

Third, the campaign against Islam did not end with colonialism: Not only are we experiencing its results, but the campaign has been renewed. There are Peace Corps, missionary expeditions. They are operating today and the political coups which have been engineered by the Western states in Islamic countries mean that today we are facing a modern, new plot to destroy Islam through the missionary expeditions. The World Council of Churches and the Christian states have been paying millions for this plot. Comparing the two sides—those hostile to us and ourselves—shows the injustice; and right emerges on our side.

All of us believe in Jesus as a prophet. When we mention Jesus we say "peace be upon Him." The Koran is full of verses glorifying Jesus and His mother Mary. We regard Him as one of God's miracles. We recognize the Torah and the New Testament and the Psalms. But the danger is that the Christians do not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad. This is the difference between us and them. We say to their prophet Jesus "may peace upon Him;" whereas in their case, they don't say Muhammad is a prophet or may peace be upon him. They say he is a liar, a charlatan. That is how it is. They do not recognize him at all.

You should begin with Christians in the Arab world and then the Christians of Europe and America. Even with Christian Arabs; I had a discussion with Pope Shinudah. He told me that Christianity does not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad and that if they did recognize it the issue between Christianity and Islam would come to an end. The issue is that they do not recognize the prophethood of Muhammad. Therefore our problem is that today the Christian world right up to this moment

does not recognize Muhammad as a prophet and does not recognize that we are believers in a divine religion. They see Muhammad as a charlatan.

They see Muslims as wicked people harboring feelings of hatred towards Christianity, Jesus, Mary, the church, the Torah, and the Bible. They believe that if the Islamic world at present was to unite or to make modern industrial progress it would destroy Christian Europe.

This is a belief that accepts no argument. The vicious campaign against Libya after the revolution and the attempts to destroy it and to encircle it from all directions, to prevent its contacts with the outside world is to a large extent a manifestation of a crusader hatred for the following reasons: Libya is a state which adopted the Koran as its law, and when they hear "Koran" they assume it is anti-Bible, anti-Torah, anti-Church, and anti-Christianity. So, if Libya became a military power and an industrial power, or even if it acquired a missile capable of crossing the Mediterranean, then it supposedly would destroy the churches and destroy Christianity.

They believe that. When Libya manufactured a missile with a range of 100 km, they said Libya has built a missile with a range of 1,000 km in order to spread fear in Europe that the Muslims had acquired missiles capable of crossing the Mediterranean Sea to destroy the Christian world. Generation after generation it has been fed to the Christian mind that if the Muslims became strong they would destroy Europe, and that the Muslims hate Christianity, the church, and Jesus. They fear we will burn their holy books and destroy their church, crosses, and statutes.

They resurrect the ghost of the Andalus [the area of Spain once held by the Moors] before their children and successive generations. They even teach it in the schools. They teach their sons: How could you let people defeat you who believe in Muhammad as a prophet, who are wicked, barbaric and backward people? This image of Muslims is presently held by Christians. This is being taught in schools and churches, and books are written on this theme.

After all, the main part of the conflict betwen West and East, when it concerns the Islamic world, is governed by these facts. To counter the rebirth of Islam, the officials in the Islamic world must be weak, their resources must be exhausted, they must be taught rotten things, their demands must be increased to turn them into a consuming market. All of this represents a complete colonial and crusader scheme. They have taught the Muslims to drink wine and eat pork and to gamble. This is the Western colonial war and these are weapons no less effective than bombs and machineguns and aircraft. This is not happening by chance at all. It is a plan, a political plan which is aimed at Islam. If the Muslim becomes a drunkard, a gambler, and morally rotten, he is finished. Therefore, these are weapons in a war, no less effective than a military war in which firearms are used.

So, a Muslim who drinks—and don't blame me for saying it—is someone who has fallen to the bullets of the enemy. A bullet can be a type of drink or a bullet of zinc or copper, for it felled a soldier of Islam. When he becomes a gambler playing cards, he has fallen in the battle, a soldier of Islam. This is not the Muslims' morality. And all that we see in the way of night clubs and other attractions which do not fit our nature and which do not satisfy any hunger are nothing but weapons with which this enemy is fighting us. And consequently we are always in a state of self-defense. We are facing aggression and injustice and destruction from within. I am saying this so we will march from this place to fight this enemy and to foil those weapons.

Therefore the youth of the Islamic world must ask for such things and even carry out a revolution in order to get them. Imagine the extent of it all. They have influenced the Islamic world by their education and prepared it mentally to do this. They wanted us to become a consumer market, consume the things which harm us and benefit them. We give them gold and they give us these chicaneries. They sell us paper, only paper, and we give them gold. We give them hard currency and they give us paper to kill time—paper for hard currency. This is a victory for them. They know that this process is still continuing and has not ended.

We call upon these new generations, which are the victims of Western colonialism and which are the outcome of Western Christian colonialism's victory over the Islamic world—these new generations, which are in fact a sick generation—(?not to fulfill) the colonialists' desires. Because if we allow ourselves to run after these needs and several other things, we will need them and their products. We will make of ourselves a consumer market.

So when Islam calls for Sufism—a rough life and ascenticism—it is, in fact, a call which should make us come to our senses and be happy with less, only the necessary and the good so we will be able to do without the many things which are not useful for us and which might kill us and strengthen the enemy.

Sufism should spread—by Sufism I do not mean Dervishism. Sufism and its modern meaning is not exactly known in the Islamic world. I do not mean here Sufism as it was portrayed in the old books. For me, Sufism, which is an essence of Islam, should spread. [applause] Instead of spreading the veil and hindering women from working, showing them contempt and doubting their ability and endurance in comparison with men, Sufism and Islamic principles should be spread, instead of the misuse of religion, sophistry, the distortion of religion, the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Takfir Wal-Hijrah [the group which killed Egyptian President al-Sadat] and all other calls which have harmed Islam as much as Western Christian colonialism.

Observing the Islamic scene and seeing the Muslim Brotherhood conspiring with the United States and being financed by United States intelligence, seeing clandestine societies, pistols, explosives, and killing in the dark, any analyst would think that the demise of Islam had begun. This is like the last gasp of a dying man. Islam has come up with nothing except bullets, bombs and the Muslim Brotherhood working clandestinely in collusion with U.S. intelligence. This would give the impression that the demise of Islam has begun. Any calling or religion which is in its death throes would resort to comitting suicide at the very end, and particularly if Islam has been turned into mere clandestine activities, into bombs and explosives used not against the enemy but against Muslims. [applause]

We should not hear that a bus full of cadets from a Syrian academy has been blown up by a Muslim brother; we should hear instead that an Israeli bus full if Israeli cadets is bombed by a Muslim brother, something which conforms with holy war and Islam. Well, the opposite took place—Arab and Muslim cadets who were being trained to fight Zionism and imperialism at a Syrian academy were killed. This means that machinations which are of our own making rebounded on us. God forbid, we have managed to turn their conspiracy around. This means that we have started to fight each other. The explosions which took place in Syria were in fact blasphemy; why were they not carried out by the Muslim Brotherhood in the Golan or inside occupied Palestine?

Why does the Muslim Brotherhood not use its courage, ability, and sacrifices—if really they have such things--against the enemy? What have they done? They bombed a bus full of senior Syrian officers who were drawing up military plans against the Zionist enemy, killing a number of them. After this, who can say this is Islam or that this is an Islamic group? This a U.S. group, a satanic group, and a Zionist group. This group has harmed Islam. Consequently an official or even an ordinary citizen would say: If Islam is the Muslim Brotherhood, collaboration with U.S. intelligence, or if Islam means that one should not turn one's guns on the Israelis who occupy the Golan and Palestine, but instead should kill Syrian personnel in the Syrian streets and at their barracks, well this is not Islam; this is blasphemy. I am not part of this.

And he would be right. If Islam merely means drums, frankincense, trickery, amulets, and so on no one will accept it.

You have to destroy the missionary expedition which is being directed against Islam today, which is working day and night, and which is being backed by the Christian world. You have to shoulder a cultural battle in order to destroy the culture which is the result of the crusader campaign against us. You have to destroy the sectarianism; factionalism and the dervish-like movements which have divided Islam. The Koran has very clear definitions. There are verses about those who form partisanships or follow a cult: It is irreligious. The Koran mentions this quite literally. Partisanship and adhering to a cult? How can one become a partisan or a cult follower in open contradiction of the Koran? This problem is confronting you. You must tackle it.

Islam should be returned into a world faith, a great faith, and not cells in the dark. Islam today means that the Muslim goes to the highest place, namely the minaret, or the pulpit, to say: God is great, I bear witness that God is great, and that Muhammad is the messenger of God. This means you must submit to what you are ordered to obey. Islam is not something that operates in the dark. As for these groups, which in actual fact are operating inside the Islamic world, they give the impression that Islam is in the throes of death. This is not a road on which Muslims kill one another.

If there is a revolutionary Muslim, a genuine Muslim who is not happy about the state of the Muslims around him, and who wants to change them into real Muslims and mujahidin, he must be a good example to them. He should move toward the common enemy of the Muslims and become a martyr in front of the enemy of Islam, who retarded us, who spread evil among us, and who occupied our holy shrines and homes. He should fight, and if he does this he will become a gallant Muslim, a brave Muslim and a mujahid, and not a complacent and submissive Muslim. But to go to kill the common enemy is folly. This is what the Muslim brothers and the other movements which have spread out in the Islamic world have been doing.

In so doing they have been serving the imperialist and Zionist plot. The Israelis are cheering every day there is an explosion in Syria—an explosion from within at the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood. They say: May their plotting rebound on them. They have been exploiting Koranic verses in order to gloat. When they entered Sinai, the Egyptians fled. What did they do? They printed leaflets with verses from the Koran, saying: How oft, Go[illegible]'l hath a small force vanquished a big one? [Kora[illegible]se]. They printed these leaflets in order to drop them on the Egyptian Army.

The Muslim Brotherhood caused explosions in Syria, killing Army commanders, military college students, or even factory workers, because this factory is a Syrian factory participating in the war effort. God said: We made their plotting rebound on them. The Israelis copied this to make us out to be oppressors.

If the crimes committed by the Muslim brothers in Syria were turned into a jihad movement against the Israelis in the Golan or in Palestine, Golan would probably be free. But they did not fire a single bullet in the direction of Golan or Palestine. They blew up houses, bridges, and factories; they killed military cadets; they killed military commanders. Today they have their headquarters in the

United States of America, alongside the U.S. intelligence. Just imagine how, in this day and age, Islam becomes subservient to U.S. intelligence—the CIA.

If there is an earnestness and readiness on your part to work for Islam, you must stand up to or destroy all these renegades. You should discredit their thoughts and depravity. You should surround them. You should stand up to the real enemy. I regret to tell you that in the current international politics, Christianity and Judaism, which we believe to be divine religions, revering their books and prophets, were exploited by imperialism and Zionism. Zionism dominated Judaism, and utilized it in a racist war against Arabs and Muslims, and in the long run against the entire world.

Imperialism utilized Christianity and turned it into a crusade. Today, crusade and Zionism entered into an alliance against Islam. Why? Because Zionism dominated Judaism, and the crusade dominated Christianity. The Western imperialist world today is a world of crusade. It exploited Christianity. In actual fact there is no rancor or hatred between the people who believe in divine religions and unitarians. As for the Christian man, we are not ignorant about his New Testament, Jesus, or Mary. We believe that Jesus is one of God's miracles and that He was a prophet of God. But He was not a son of God, or a god. He was a human being. His birth was one of God's miracles.

As for Judaism we recognize Moses, Jacob, the Israeli tribes, and all the prophets of the sons of Israel and the Torah. We revere these things because they are divine work. Our Prophet Muhammad, his book, the Koran—God revealed it through him. We learned these facts from his book and we believe in them. We do not differentiate between any of God's prophets. We do not even differentiate between Muhammad, Moses, or Jesus. God has said so. They are prophets of God. There is no problem between us and God in this connection. The problem is between us, as real Muslims, and Jews or Christians, as believers in divine religions.

But we are now in a real war between us and them. Why? There is a war between us and Zionism—which adopted Judaism, took advantage of it, contained it, and used it against us, not only in word but also in deed. Our common enemy used these two religions in the crusade, used them in modern Western colonialism, in the missionary movements, and in the raids on Libya and Tunisia, in raids on Syria and Lebanon, and in letting the Israelis take control of Palestine and its surroundings. The battle continues. They want to make Indonesia Christian. They want to turn a big Islamic nation into a Christian nation. Did we go to them to change them into Muslims?

No, it is they who came to the Muslims, wanting to change them into Christians. There is also paganism. Why don't they turn pagans into Christians? Why do they have to come to the Muslims? It is because they hate Islam. The purpose of this is not to make God's religion universal. It is this: There are some people who believe in Islam, therefore they must be destroyed. There is a religion called Islam. They fear it and therefore they want to destroy it. It is not a question of spreading a religion for the sake of God. No. If this is the case, then there are nations who are pagan or ignorant. They exist. But they did not seek these nations.

What is happening now is that there is some concentration on making the Islamic countries change their faith to Christianity. Therefore, there is a military and political aim. If Islam and Muslims expired, Europe would be relieved and would say: There is no one who will cross the sea to create a new Andalusia. They would say: The cheating would end and so would the tale of the false prophet. Imagine what would happen if we said Jesus was not a prophet. If we did they would have some justification. They would say: Our problem with you is that you do not recognize Jesus. The fact is, we believe in Jesus and Moses, yet they do not recognize anything, even the prophethood of Muhammad.

The truth is that what is happening today is an unjust logic and a flagrant aggression. Regrettably there is no way to argue peacefully.

They have left us no scope to argue with them. If you say that this one is a prophet and that one is a prophet; what has this one done and what that one had done; or this one had this and that one had something else, there might be a logic for arguing. When they say that Muhammad can never be a prophet, that he is a charlatan, and you, the Muslims, are barbarians, savages, and want to destroy the church, Europe, and the cross, then there is no possibility for dialogue.

They expressed this when the United States, the Christian NATO alliance, attacked my house and Libya in full view of the world. This meant there could be no dialogue. They left no room for dialogue between them and us. Even an inquiry into the incidents they created cannot be held. There is no possibility of investigating them, whether these incidents took place or not, or who did or did not initiate them; they have shown that there is no room for dialogue, only killing and war. This is why we should declare jihad. We will triumph over them because we are stronger, we have right on our side, and our number is great. We form a quarter of the earth's population, and our countries possess the required resources. They want to negate our effectiveness; they want to turn us into consumers. They want to take our resources, process them, and turn them into trivial goods. In exchange, they want hard currency.

Our culture must reign supreme. My address should be published in a pamphlet. Every graduate should place it in his pocket. The rest of the graduates and your teachers are aware of this, and need not even listen to my address because they are fully aware of its content. In fact, I appreciate this elite section of the sons of the Islamic

nations who come from all parts of the world, who placed themselves in the service of Islam, who made knowledge their preoccupation, and who want to go on a jihad in support of Islam. This is the right path. The right path is the path of modern Islamic knowledge.

The revolution today is a cultural revolution. If it comes to fighting, there is no problem. Our number is sufficient to fight, and exploding bombs and firing guns is easy. Any idiot could do it. But the most difficult thing is knowledge, culture, and enlightenment. The most dangerous thing is ignorance; to be exploited; a lack of awareness; superficiality all these things helped create the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic Liberation Party, and the other groups which are a discredit to Islam. They have become a tool in the hands of the enemies of Islam, and today work on behalf of Israelis and Americans in the Islamic world.

I believe we began treading the right road when we set up this college and its branch. I pledge to you today we will open more branches in all parts of the Islamic world. [cheers, applause, and chants]

God willing, Islam is reawakening and the Islamic nation is rising once again. We have laid down the leadership base and the foundation stone for Islam's unity, the resurgence of Islam, and for confronting the enemy of Islamic leadership, a new Islamic unity, and a jihad in this age. God willing, this new jihad epic will end with a great victory for Islam. [applause, cheers, and chants]

Chad Reconciliation Moves Reported

PM2308130688 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Aug 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Restoration of Chad-Libya Relations"]

[Text] According to Tunisian diplomatic sources, there has been a mediation between Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on one hand and Chadian President Hissein Habre on the other. The sources emphasize that the Libyan leader stressed to the Tunisian president his willingness to establish diplomatic relations with Chad and not to interfere in the internal disputes between the various Chadian groups.

Tunisian circles expect direct talks to begin between Tripoli and Ndjamena this month and diplomatic relations to be established before the end of the year.

Briefs

ROK Telecommunications Agreement

Tripoli, 22 Aug, JANA—The minutes of a cooperation agreement in telecommunications between the Great Jamahiriyah and South Korea was signed today in Tripoli. The minutes were signed by Yi Hae-uk, the South Korean vice minister of communications, and the brother general secretary of the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport. [Text] [*LD2308041788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 88*]

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Mahdi on Flood, Aid Plans

NC2208153588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has criticized the way in which the foreign press has reported the recent events in Sudan. He added that some correspondents described Sudan as if it were drowning, as if it were plagued with epidemics, and as if locusts were threatening it for the first time in 1,000 years.

Most of Al-Mahdi's criticism was directed at the BBC. He accused that corporation, as well as newspapers and other press establishments, of exaggerating the situation in Sudan in their reports.

He affirmed that the Sudanese Government welcomes all journalists of whatever nationality, provided that they commit themselves to reporting facts. The prime minister stressed that Sudan is open and ready to provide them with whatever they demand.

In a statement before the Constituent Assembly today on the recent floods and torrential rains in the country, Al-Mahdi pointed out these disasters had left 73 persons dead and 215 others injured. He added that 120,705 buildings, including houses, schools, and other installations, have been demolished in Khartoum, not to mention the damage which has been caused in the Northern, Eastern, and Central Provinces.

The prime minister said that structural flaws primarily contributed to the extensive damage to buildings in the capital. He added that technical committees are now working on a plan to redesign and reconstruct the capital.

The Sudanese prime minister disclosed in his statement that Sudan has 22 planes at its disposal to fight the spread of the locusts and has enough pesticides to last 15 days.

Al-Mahdi said the locusts initially infested an area of 500,000 hectares but have now spread to an area covering 2 million hectares. He emphasized that Sudan, supported by friends, will exert more efforts to fight this danger.

Regarding the aid which Sudan has received from abroad, the prime minister said that the aid received so far amounts to 211 planeloads, 192 of which have come from Arab states. He expressed thanks to all fraternal and friendly states which have helped Sudan in the present conditions.

Replying to rumors carried by foreign radios on the misdirection of aid, including the charge the Army has consumed most of the aid, the Sudanese prime minister defended the Armed Forces, asserting the Army has sacrificed its supplies of foodstuffs for the sake of helping the residents of many areas in the capital. He added the Army has contributed to the orderly distribution of the aid.

Answering allegations made by foreign radios that the distribution of aid is subject to religious and racist considerations, Al-Mahdi described these as biased rumors emanating from the minds of those who continue to consider Sudan as part of an Africa living in darkness. He pointed out Sudan deals in a tolerable manner with all.

Turning to the issue of the floods, Al-Mahdi disclosed that the water level of the Nile reached 16.8 meters today. However, he added, it is expected that the damage resulting from these floods will be less severe than that incurred in 1946, thanks to the big projects which have restricted the flow of water as well as the construction of the Al-Rusayris Reservoir, facilities that did not exist in 1946.

Pointing out that Khartoum is 360 meters above sea level, Al-Mahdi said that if we add to this the highest water level ever recorded—17.14 meters in 1946—then the highest the water level could reach is 377.14 meters. Theoretically, this means that all parts of Khartoum would be covered by water, he added. The prime minister noted however that most of Khartoum's installations have been built at 382 meters above sea level, thus rendering them safe from the threat of flooding.

Al-Mahdi said that he has received a report on the readings of the water level in the Al-Daym area on the Ethiopian hill. The report indicates that the level has dropped 10 cm. This, he added, means that regardless of how big the flow might be today and tomorrow, the water level will recede after 3 days, because any drop in the Al-Daym readings will reflect on the Nile within the next 3 days. He noted that the volume of water in the Al-Rusayris Reservoir has dropped from 643 to 603 cubic meters at the moment, adding it is expected to drop further in the coming 3 days.

The Sudanese prime minister said that the [current] readings of the water levels do not portend a great threat. He acknowledged, however, that some islands, towns, and other areas have been flooded by the Nile inundation and that damage has been incurred as a result. The prime minister pointed out that a reassuring situation will develop should the Nile water level recede in the coming days. In this connection, he noted that the Nile flooding is expected to end by the 1st week of September. Al-Mahdi added that while Sudan is exerting great efforts to handle these problems, the media's treatment of the situation has been very exaggerated.

Touching on other Sudanese problems, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reiterated his government's rejection of the entry of any foreign troops into his country. He noted there was no agreement regarding the entry into Sudan of some 2,000 troops of Chad's Ibn Oumar. However, Al-Mahdi stressed that the Sudanese Government has refused to give Ibn Oumar permission to join these forces. He added these troops have no alternative but to hand over their weapons to the Sudanese Armed Forces and to remain in Sudan as refugees until an agreement has been reached with Chad.

Regarding the situation in the south, Al-Mahdi disclosed that a considerable number of exchanges are taking place in an effort to establish peace in the area. He noted that a joint committee comprising government and opposition officials has been formed to arrange for a peaceful settlement and to agree on the formation of an all-embracing national committee with the goal of holding a constitutional conference before the end of this year.

Concerning the alternative draft laws known as the new Islamic laws, Al-Mahdi said that the cabinet has discussed the plan, which the Legislation Committee will submit to the Sudanese Constituent Assembly only after it has been debated freely and frankly by all parties.

Commission Says Health Situation 'Reassuring'

JN2208201588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 22 Aug (SUNA)—The Higher Commission for Health Salvation has stressed that the health situation in the country is reassuring and that no epidemic cases have yet been registered. The commission added that the ailments that have appeared, such as diarrhea and respiratory infections, were within the normal average.

In its report today, the commission said the central laboratory confirmed there is no positive evidence of epidemics in any form despite the country's difficult health circumstances due to rains and floods. The report added the organized performance of the country's health organs has managed to keep health problems at a minimum despite their limited resources. However, environmental health is the only problem facing health work. Curative or preventative (?medicine) cannot be fruitful unless environmental health is improved, the report said. [passage omitted]

SPLA-DUP Joint Statement Released

EA2208192988 [Clandestine] Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Here now is the joint statement by the two delegations of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Sudan People's Liberation army, SPLM-SPLA.

1. In a cordial atmosphere a meeting took place between a delegation of the DUP headed by Sayyid Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the DUP, and a delegation of the SPLM-SPLA headed by Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command. The meeting took place in Addis Ababa in the period from 18th to 20th August 1988.

2. The meeting was characterized by a spirit of brotherhood, seriousness, frank and sincere exchange of views, and mutual trust. The meeting discussed the national problems and explored the possible practical solutions which would push the peace process forward. The views of the two sides were concurrent on the issues raised and agreement was reached on the necessity of continuous dialogue in order to arrive at a practical formula that will bring about the convening of the proposed national constitutional conference.

3. Inspired by the determination to realize the wishes of our people who are yearning for genuine peace and stability in the country the two sides agreed on the following.

a) The two delegations are to meet again within a period not exceeding 2 weeks from the date of this statement.

b) A meeting is to take place in the near future between Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the patron of the DUP, and Dr John Garang de Mabior, chairman of the SPLM-SPLA political-military high command.

4. The two sides appealed to the international community and all humanitarian and benevolent organizations to extend the urgently needed help to the victims of the heavy rains and floods, especially in Khartoum the south, the east and the north of the country.

5. The two sides appealed to all the Sudanese political forces to exert persistent efforts to bring about a conducive atmosphere for the realization of the wishes of our people for peace and stability through the convening of the national constitutional conference in the near future.

6. The two sides call on the masses of our people to be vigilant and on full guard against the forces that are bent on rejecting national consensus by their actions, which can only lead to [the] inevitable disintegration of the country.

Long live the struggle of the Sudanese people.

Signed in Addis Ababa, on the 20th August, 1988 for the SPLM-SPLA Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command; for the DUP Sayyid Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, secretary general of the DUP

Uganda's Museveni Denies Aiding Garang, Departs

NC2208184188 Cairo MENA in English 1538 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 22 (MENA)—Yoweri Museveni, Ugandan president, left here earlier today following a two-day visit to the Sudan during which he met with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister, and members of the Presidency Council here.

He told reporters in a press conference before departure that he discussed with officials here African issues in general and bilateral relations in particular.

We, in Uganda, are taking keen interest in the Sudan as a neighbouring country and we would like to see peace established in south Sudan for the good of our two countries, he further said. The Ugandan president said that his country does not assist the rebellion in south Sudan led by John Garang except in humane matters.

We keep the Sudanese Government posted about this humane aid, he said, citing as an example how ten persons from the rebellion movement had taken refuge in Uganda and did reach a border area. Khartoum was notified of the episode, he added. We have received, on our territories, about 500 Sudanese troops, he said.

He indicated that he carries no initiative for establishing peace between the north and south Sudan because the issue is purely a Sudanese one. It only rests with the Sudanese to decide what they see best for the attainment of peace, the president added. Our role is just to secure a rapprochement of viewpoints between the two parties and provide counsel for either of them.

More on Statement

JN2208202588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1738 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] [Dateline and passage indistinct] in a press conference he gave prior to his departure today President Museveni said he had talks with Sudanese officials on trade relations, means of upgrading river and railways transports between the two countries besides cooperation to irradicate the Tsetse fly in the two countries.

President Museveni has however made it clear that cooperation between the two countries in the said spheres could not be achieved in the absence of [words indistinct]

President Museveni, who left the country today concluding a 3-day state visit to Sudan, has admitted his government has earlier extended medical treatment to ten rebel elements from the SPLA "Sudan People's Liberation Army which is leading a bush war against the government."

He stressed however that the Sudanese Government has been notified at the time asserting that the treatment of the SPLA injured was carried out for humanitarian reasons.

We did the same with some thousand Sudanese troops last year, he said.

He said that in both cases Uganda was acting in accordance with international conventions.

We do not support SPLA either militarily or politically, he said.

He admitted however that the only assistance SPLA receives from Uganda was based on humanitarian "ground."

The Ugandan president said his 13-year long bush war against successive Ugandan regimes has given him an experience which he might use to advice the Sudanese Government to solve the south Sudan question.

Museveni said all Ugandan refugees in southern Sudan have returned home and that only [a] few individuals have remained behind at their own will.

Responding to a question about human rights violations in Uganda, President Museveni stressed that his government has "no exploitative interests so it has no reason to violate human rights. [quotation marks as received]

Meanwhile the Sudanese Minister for Presidency Affairs Salah 'Abd al-Salam has described relations between the Sudan and Uganda as being in their best "and said President Museveni was a new kind of African leadership which seeks the betterment of the continent. [quotation marks as received]

President Museveni during his three day stay had held talks with senior Sudanese officials on bilateral relations.

He had a meeting with the head of the state Ahmed Ali al-Mirghani [words indistinct] Mahdi.

Bahrain

Gulf Air To Resume Baghdad, Tehran Flights

JN2208173888 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—Gulf Air has been given the go-ahead by the Civil Aviation Directorate to resume flights to Tehran and Baghdad.

Mr 'Abdallah Karim, Gulf Air's public relations manager, confirmed in a statement published in GULF DAILY NEWS today that the flights would resume if the ceasefire held. "Although it is too premature to say just when we will resume flights to Tehran and Baghdad, we certainly intend to do so. They were sectors of great potential and we hope to resume flights as soon as we can," he said. Gulf Air was among major carriers which suspended flights to the warring capitals.

Jordan's Hasan Stops Over Enroute to Pakistan

JN1908180988 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Crown Prince Hasan and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this evening on their way to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. His Highness Bahraini Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and a number of Bahraini officials received him in the airport upon arrival.

Crown Prince Hasan will meet this evening with His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah and discuss ways to strengthening bilateral relations.

Meets Heir Apparent, Departs

JN2008085688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, 20 Aug (WAKH)—Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and the accompanying delegation left Manama this morning after a short visit to Bahrain. He was seen off upon departure by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and acting prime minister, and a number of senior Bahraini officials.

The Jordanian crown prince held talks during the visit with Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them in all fields.

Defense Minister Leaves for FRG Visit

JN2208111188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 Aug (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Manama for the FRG this morning on an official visit at the invitation of German Defense Minister Dr Rupert Scholz. [passage omitted]

Algerian Minister Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN2208191788 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—Member of the Political Bureau of the Algerian National Liberation Front and Minister of State to the presidency Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani left here today after a two-day visit to Bahrain.

He was seen off by Bahraini Information Minister and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad and Algerian Charge d'Affaires Abdel Majid Boumessid.

Saudi Arabia

Government To Extradite Shi'ites to Pakistan

BK2208155188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] The Government of Saudi Arabia has agreed to hand over to Pakistan the Shi'ite Muslims [nationality not specified] who were arrested by Saudi Arabia during the hajj. A senior Pakistani official has left for Saudi Arabia in this connection.

Defense Minister Receives Egypt's Al-Majid

LD2208143388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1138 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, today received Dr Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, at Jeddah al-Salam Royal Palace. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Delegation Concludes Visit

LD2308015988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2119 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 22 Aug, SPA—His excellency the deputy chairman of the State Council in the Sudan, Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah this evening following a visit to the Kingdom during which they expressed their thanks and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, for the assistance which he ordered for the victims of the floods and torrential rivers which have destroyed many regions of Sudan. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Issues

PM2208130088 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 15 Aug 88 pp 7-11

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Hamidah Na'na' in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Na'na'] Observers' attention was drawn to increasing events and developments in Yemen during July. These included the

Shura Council elections, promotion of officers, reinstatement of demoted officers, formation of the Consultative Council—whose members have increased—and the formation of the government. In short, you restructured the Yemeni state within 1 month. The question is: What are the criteria and considerations for the next stage, and on what basis was all this done?

[Salih] The Shura Council elections were prepared early, especially since electoral constituencies are not firmly determined in view of administrative classification. Also, there are no records of the names of electorates in the republic within the administrative units. The Constituent People's Assembly, according to its role defined in the constitutional statement of 1979, prepared the Shura Council elections. [passage omitted]

The promotion of officers in the Armed and Security Forces is natural because of our expansion in the Armed and Security Forces, the introduction of some advanced weapons, and the Armed Forces' quantitative and qualitative advancement. Therefore, it was essential to cancel the previous decision of the Command Council—which demoted or suspended some ranks—and restored rights to the owners. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Did you feel happy after your resignation?

[Salih] They were the happiest 2 hours of my life. I hoped that Shura Council members would organize the situation and nominate and elect a new president. I thought the process would last 4 or 5 days at least, but it came as a surprise to be notified 2 hours later of the Shura Council's decision to reelect me. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Are you thinking of appointing a vice president and what characteristics will you look for?

[Salih] This matter is subject to future considerations and public interests. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Let us move to new military promotions: Will there be ranks higher than yours in the Armed Forces?

[Salih] Yes. There will be general, major general, and brigadier ranks.

[Na'na'] Will your legitimacy emanate from your being the president of the Republic and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces or from your military rank? And if your legitimacy is emanating from your military rank, what will you do in the knowledge that you are a military man who knows that the lower ranks submit to the higher ranks?

[Salih] I derive my legitimacy from being the head of the state.

[Na'na'] Wouldn't you be alarmed if there were a rank higher than yours within the Armed Forces?

[Salih] In fact, the opposite is the case. I would be happy about this.

Na'na'] How and why?

[Salih] Because I am opening the door for promotions, honoring young capabilities by bestowing on them the ranks they deserve.

[Na'na'] Will you upgrade your rank?

[Salih] No.

[Na'na'] Why?

[Salih] I am the head of state. The head of state is in charge of everything.

[Na'na'] Would you allow me to move from internal anxieties and achievements to foreign policy?

[Salih] Please ask whatever you wish.

[Na'na'] I will begin with your relations with your brothers in the southern part [of Yemen]. In fact, you are constantly surprising observers: Your relations with your brothers in the south involve either armed confrontation or unity, nothing in between. I am referring to recent events.

[Salih] I would like to emphasize that as of today there will be no war between us and the southern part of the homeland. The dialogue being maintained today will be the standard. In fact, the principle of dialogue has been the prevailing principle between us and the southern part since 1980, namely, after [former PDRY President] 'Ali Nasir assumed power. In the past, specifically in 1979, we had a problem. Some people wanted to achieve unity in their own way. Today officials in the south accept dialogue. There is dialogue and understanding between us.

You probably have heard about the blessed Ramadan agreements which provide citizens' freedom of movement between the two parts without administrative complications. This has been implemented meticulously. I believe this constitutes a unionist achievement. Citizens in both the north and south are happy because they now can see their kinfolk and brothers easily. Yemen, the two parts, is one people.

[Na'na'] This is very nice to hear and we wish you success in this venture. But during my meetings with people, some of whom come from the north, I noticed that these unionist measures came as a result of your own personal initiative and your understanding of the new political reality in the region. Today, you, as a leader in the north, are seriously raising the unity question. Will there be a response on the part of officials in the south, and can we expect a new, happy surprise on the road to unity?

[Salih] I believe trust will be established through dialogue and frequent, constant meetings with the brothers in the south. And when trust is established between leaders, masses, institutions, organizations, and unions, the atmosphere will be suitable for proceeding on the road to unity. The method of dialogue and trust is the ideal method. I believe that the opening of borders allows people to move [freely], which will resolve many problems and pave the way for what is more important—that is, unity.

[Na'na'] Some observers notice that you have adopted the method Gorbachev is exercising with the West. I mean in terms of successive initiatives. Every day, you embark on an initiative or decision concerning the national cause, taking your brothers in the south by surprise. Will these initiatives become a policy for you? And will this be applied to your relations with the states of the region? Will you present unionist initiatives to the states of the region, for instance, beginning with joint economic projects and joint coordination over many issues. By the states of the region, I mean the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the GCC states.

[Salih] Our steps are well studied. They are based on principles. They are not tactical. Unity is a sacred objective to us. For this reason, we study every step carefully before embarking on it. We pursue the same method in defining and developing our relations with fraternal countries. We are coordinating with our brothers in the GCC. We are advocating this objective via our contacts with the brothers in the Gulf and the peninsula. This is because we believe that economic cooperation and the establishment of joint projects and understanding between us is the ideal policy for strengthening relations among brothers.

I talked about this more than once. Yemen relies considerably on aid provided by our brothers and friends. We are still a developing country, but we have made long strides in the agricultural field over the past 10 years, especially during the 1984-1988 period. We have achieved self-sufficiency in vegetables, fruits, and other food products. But this is not enough, there must be more cooperation and integration among the Arab states. There must be trade exchange.

Arab states must be given priority in this regard. Instead of providing grants or aid to one state or another, it would be more appropriate to open markets for other states to enable them to market their agricultural or industrial products. This constitutes part of integration and cooperation. We in Yemen are working in this direction in order to reach an agreement with our brothers on such a policy in the Gulf region and the Arabian peninsula.

[Na'na'] Brother President, can we expect cooperation between you and the GCC states along the lines being maintained among the Arab Maghreb states?

[Salih] This form of cooperation already exists among us.

[Na'na'] Can the Yemenis, both northerners and southerners, join such an entity?

[Salih] There is cooperation between us Yemenis, both northerners and southerners. And we have no objection to such cooperation being established between us and other states in the peninsula, Gulf, Al-Sham [Syria], and other Arab states. This is one of our revolution's objectives.

[Na'na'] Mr President, how are your relations with all your neighbors?

[Salih] Excellent. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Did your support for Iraq include the dispatch of forces?

[Salih] We are proud of our support for Iraq in the defense of Arab territory. This is in conformity with Islamic teachings, even if our participation was via one or two individuals, or even if our support was just a moral or political one. Iraq is defending its territory, independence, and dignity. We have declared our stand and we have informed our brothers in Iran of it. When they turn to peace, as Iraq did, we will be with the will of peace. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Does the talk about nonalignment and positive neutrality these days coincide with particular settlements which may be carried out in the Horn of Africa? And is the policy of nonalignment an indirect reply to these settlements? And do you have any worries regarding the Horn of Africa region in view of international understanding?

[Salih] We do not interfere in the affairs of others nor do we give advice to anyone. As far as we are concerned, we believe the policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment suits us. It is our only option. As to whether I have any worries regarding the Horn of Africa region, I would like to emphasize that nothing worries us in this regard. We have supported all the agreements made to solve problems.

[Na'na'] Observers note the phrase "to contain and overcome the effects of the January incidents" contained in the recent agreement between you and the brothers in the south. How do you explain this phrase in practice? And are there any secret appendices to the agreement exerting pressure on southerners residing in the north since the 3 January incidents?

[Salih] There are no secret appendices to the agreement. I stress that there are no secrets in Yemen. Problems concerning our people are not solved through secret agreements. Those who think there is a secret are mistaken. Our unionist action is clear and declared. What we discussed has been published. And the issues we broached during our talks included ways of "overcoming the January incidents."

[Na'na'] In your opinion, how can the January incidents be overcome?

[Salih] In our opinion, the problem can be solved. The solution is represented by the return of refugees to their positions in order to make a contribution within the framework of national unity in the south. They should return to their jobs; their rights should be guaranteed. They should occupy positions that suit their party, technical, leading, social, security, and military capabilities. Problems caused by the January incidents can be solved within this framework and through brotherly talks and understanding as one people and one family and as brothers. This way we will reach a solution. I believe that understanding has been initiated between refugees in the north and the brothers in the south. There is a solution to every problem.

[Na'na'] Mr President, I can see you are very optimistic. Do you have information we do not know of which inspires such optimism?

[Salih] I am optimistic because there is complete understanding between the two sides.

[Na'na'] The [Palestinian] uprising in the occupied territories is constantly escalating. Surely you listened to King Husayn's recent speech and knew of the measures taken to sever Jordan's legal ties with the West Bank. How do you assess this situation? And what does King Husayn's speech mean to you? Did you receive prior information on its contents via diplomatic channels?

[Salih] The Palestinian uprising or the uprising of the Arab people in Palestine is the most important event in 10 years. It is an event that no one expected. Under the conditions surrounding it the uprising has been more effective than armies or military operations carried out in the occupied territories. The stone revolution in the West Bank and Gaza constitutes a supporting factor for Palestinian political action and struggle inside the occupied territories.

As for the speech by Brother King Husayn, we have no comment on its contents. I do not believe that the objective of the speech or recent measures is evading responsibility. His Majesty Brother King Husayn has never evaded his responsibilitiy toward the Palestinian people in the occupied territories nor has he evaded his participation in all pan-Arab causes, foremost among which is the cause of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] The recent elections have revealed the existence of Marxist, nationalist, Nasirist, and Muslim Brotherhood trends. Their programs were revealed via leaflets. What is your comment?

[Salih] I would like to confirm that there are no trends in Yemeni society. Everyone adheres to the objectives of the September revolution and to the stipulations of the charter, Constitution. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Reportedly Receive Soviet SS-21's

JN2308094188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Aug (WAKH)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi today, said the YAR has recently obtained long-range Soviet-made SS-21 missiles.

The paper quoted Western military sources as saying that the YAR Armed Forces actually received not less than four missile-launching pads earlier this summer. The same sources pointed out that this step reflects a Soviet openness regarding supplying Sanaa with sophisticated weapons following a relative stalemate in armament relations between them.

Prime Minister Receives Sudanese Minister

JN2008183688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received at noon today Brother Dr Ibrahim al-Amin, state minister for Sudanese expatriate workers affairs, who gave him a letter from Brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's prime minister, to Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, on bilateral ties. The letter lauds our country's relief aid to the brotherly Sudanese people to help them cope with floods and torrential rains.

Briefs

FRG Cooperation Agreement

A cooperation agreement was signed in Sanaa today granting the YAR DM 5 million to fund studies on a rural water project. Signing for the YAR was the development minister, and for the FRG, its Sanaa ambassador. [Summary] [*JN2008184688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 88*]

Construction Agreement Signed

An agreement was signed today between the Reconstruction Council and a local firm to build 21 mosques, 34 schools, and 7 clinics at a cost of 140,388,084 Yemeni riyals under the second stage of rehabilitating the areas hit by earthquakes. Funding for the program came from the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. [Summary] [*JN2208134588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 88*]

Basra Airport Opens, Ship Leaves Port

JN2008163288 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 20, INA—In two separate ceremonies held today in Basra Iraqi Port city, the first international airport was inaugurated in this southern city, while the first Iraqi ship "Al-Idrisi" sailed from Khawr al-Zubayr Port on its way to the Strait of Hormuz via the Arab Gulf.

The two outstanding Iraqi events, celebrated in the presence of top Iraqi officials, among them Minister of Communications Mr. Muhammad Hamzah, would put to test Iran's real intentions to effect a ceasefire.

At 09:15 hours (05:15 GMT) this morning the first Iraqi civil airliner landed at the new international airport in Basra, ushering in to and from Basra domestic flights.

Basra is named "city of all cities" for the steadfastness it has shown during the Iraq-Iran war and for standing up in the face of Iranian long-range artillery bombardment for several years.

Iraq is observing the movement of two Iraqi commercial vesels sailing today in opposite directions. The first is "Khawlah", which sailed earlier in the day from Al-Fujayrah Port (UAE) towards the Strait of Hormuz on its way to the Arab Gulf and then to Iraqi ports. The second is "Al-Idrisi", which set out from Khawr al-Zubayr Port to the Arab Gulf in its way to the Strait of Hormuz.

An Iraqi oil tanker, loaded with a shipment of Iraqi crude oil at a temporry Iraqi port until Iraqi terminals are repaired, is also moving now towards the Strait of Hormuz. The oil tanker is named "Ayn Zalah".

Early this morning a ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war has been put into effect, with a force of international observers being deployed along the war front from the farthest point in the north of Iraq to the remotest spot in the south of the country. The ceasefire has become effective on ground, at sea and in air. Using international waters in the Arab Gulf for commercial purposes and sailing of Iraqi commercial vessels in them is considered the first test of Iran's intentions to really observe the ceasefire decision.

'Khawlah' Arrives in Umm Qasr Port

JN2208194688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Basra, 22 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi ship "Khawlah" called at the port of Umm Qasr in the Basra Governorate at 1815 today after completing its journey in the Arabian Gulf and crossing the Strait of Hormuz, flying the Iraqi flag, which fluttered and boasted of the decisive Iraqi victory.

The INA team in the port of Umm Qasr said the "Khawlah" was accorded a great welcome as it anchored at the port. Participating in the welcoming ceremony were Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, Basra Governor Anwar Sa'id 'Umar, the secretary and members of the Basra branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the commander of the Naval Force and Coastal Defense, and senior officials. The INA team added that crowds of people also welcomed the first Iraqi ship to anchor at an Iraqi port in 8 years. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi informing him of the glad tidings of the arrival in the port of Umm Qasr today of the Iraqi ship "Khawlah" and also about the departure of the "Al-Idrisi" for the Red Sea ports via the Strait of Hormuz. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the INA team in Umm Qasr, the captain of the "Khawlah," Muhammad 'Ali 'Abd al-Hamid Sa'id said that on instructions from President Saddam Husayn the ship's crew had defied all the desperate attempts by Iranian gunboats. He added the defiance lasted 26 hours, from the ship's entry into the Strait of Hormuz to its arrival at Farsi Island. The ship ignored Iranian calls and threats to board and search the ship and continued to sail at the same speed, without paying attention to Iranian attempts and provocations.

The captain of the "Khawlah" explained that as part of their provocations, the Iranians sent one of their naval vessels to monitor the Iraqi ship. They also sent gunboats and helicopters in an attempt to affect our morale. However, their attempts failed and the "Khawlah" continued to sail in the Arabian Gulf, flying the Iraqi flag, toward its destination.

INA learned that the Iraqi merchant ship "Al-Idrisi" crossed the Strait of Hormuz at 1800 today on its way to its scheduled destinations. It is noteworthy that the "Al-Idrisi" was the first Iraqi merchant ship to depart an Iraqi port, setting sail a few hours after the cease-fire went into effect on 20 August.

Minister Says Ports Ready To Handle Goods

JN2308140988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah has announced the readiness of the Iraqi ports and piers to receive and export 6,000 tonnes of various commodities and goods every year.

In a statement to INA, the transport and communications minister added that a plan of action has been drawn up to activate the air and marine transport activities from and to the valiant city of Basra after the Iraq-Iran cease-fire took effect. The minister pointed out

that the transport and communications apparata began a while ago to survey the ports of Al-Zubayr and Umm Qasr, and also to prepare the piers for the arrival and departure of commercial ships and also for repairing the docking ships and those damaged by the war.

The minister affirmed that the Iraqi specialists worked day and night to prepare the two ships "Al-Idrisi" and "Khawlah" until their great ambition materialized when they embarked on their journey according to a plan implemented successfully on the morning when the cease-fire took effect.

'Secret' Pipeline Emerges 'Unscathed' From War

JN2208090088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 88 p 6

[Excerpt] Bahrain (R)—Iraq has a secret pipeline that emerged unscathed from the war with Iran ready to export oil through the Gulf again, oil and shipping sources said Sunday.

But the sources could not confirm if the pipeline to the Umm Qasr Gulf port was used Saturday to load the first Iraqi tanker to enter the waterway since 1980, only hours after a U.N.-brokered ceasefire in the eight-year-old war took effect. "Iraq had built a pipeline to Umm Qasr in 1985 with hopes of starting oil exports from the Gulf, but then Iran took Al-Faw peninsula making it impossible," an oil industry executive said.

Iraq said it had sent 18,000 tonnes of crude oil on the tanker Ain Zala to South Yemen's Aden refinery Saturday but oil and shipping sources said its whereabouts were a mystery.

With Iraq's two deepwater Gulf terminals destroyed by Iran in the early years of the war, Baghdad's announcement that it had renewed exports via the Gulf surprised the oil community. Iraq had been unable to export crude from the Gulf since the start of the war with Iran and had relied on pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and road tankers through Jordan and Turkey to maintain export oil revenues needed to pay for the war.

Oil industry sources said the capacity of the pipeline to Umm Qasr was not known, but judging from the size of Saturday's shipment it could not be very large. "It is uneconomical to ship 18,000 tonnes of crude on tankers," one shipping source said. "Iraq must have been trying to make a point of free passage through the Gulf."

Oil companies usually charter tankers with a capacity of 200,000 to 400,000 tones for oil shipments out of the Gulf.

Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) Saturday that they would gradually increase the exports out of the Gulf. But Gulf-based oil traders said Iraq does not need to export small quantities from the Gulf as its pipelines and road tanker fleet currently meet its needs better.

Iraq is currently producing around 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude and exporting around 2.3 million. A second pipeline through Saudi Arabia to be completed in mid-1989 will give Iraq another 1.1 million bpd export capacity. [passage omitted]

Iranian Force Approaches Border, Withdraws

JN2208182088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—INA has learned that with the beginning of the cease-fire, an Iranian force tried to approach the Iraqi border in the IV Army Corps sector on 20 and 21 August. It also tried to reinforce Iranian units in the forward areas and redeploy them in new areas, thereby violating the cease-fire resolution.

Iraq has lodged a complaint with the UN observers team, informing it that if the Iranian units do not withdraw to their previous positions, our units will return them to their previous positions by force. The UN team intervened and asked the Iranian side to withdraw. The Iranian forces actually began to withdraw this evening, 22 August 1988.

40 UN Technicians Arrive, Join Observers Group

JN2208153788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—Forty UN technicians arrived in Baghdad today to join the UN observers team entrusted with supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. A special plane carried them and the technical equipment necessary for the UN observers.

UN, Red Cross Groups Arrive

JN2308143188 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 23, INA—Another group of UN and international Red Cross technicians arrived here this afternoon. The group, consisting of 60 persons, will join the international observers mission observing the effect of cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

The group arrived aboard a private plane accompanied with technical equipment necessary for the international observers work.

Minister Deplores Attempts To 'Influence' POW's

JN2108121688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0956 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has condemned the Iranian regime's inhuman practices against the Iraqi POW's.

In a statement to INA today, Jasim said that throughout the years of the war, the Iranian regime tried to influence the Iraqi POW's to change their national convictions and prompt them to request asylum in Iran. The minister of culture and information affirmed that the Iraqi fighters who fell captive in Iran under combat circumstances fully know that their national leadership which led Iraq to a clear victory appreciates their circumstances and the Iranian regime's severe measures against them, which ranged from collective excutions to horrible means of psychological and physical torture.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that these circumstances have never been absent from the mind of the Iraqi leadership for one moment. Therefore, this leadership takes these circumstances into consideration regarding the appropriate human dealing with those men who fell captive under uncontrollable circumstances. He said their homeland and people open their arms to welcome them. He indicated that the Iranian regime, which violated the Geneva Conventions regarding the protection and relief of POW's throughout the past years according to documented testimonies by the International Committee for the Red Cross, now resorts to distortion in the hope of achieving its psychological goals against Iraqi POW's. The minister said that these attempts are some of the last arrows of treachery that are aimed at influencing the prisoners under cover of what the Iranian regime calls asylum or under some other misguiding cover.

Concluding his statement, the minister of culture and information said: The status of the Iraqi POW's is preserved inside our hearts and those of their families. Those POW's will foil the last arrows of treachery. However, there is no regret for the agents who changed their convictions deliberately, insistently, and premeditatedly.

President's Office Makes 21 Aug Official Holiday

JN2008180188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Tomorrow, Sunday, will be observed as an official holiday by all the state's institutions.

A statement issued by the president's office today said that that would be on the occasion of the great Iraqi people's celebrations of their great victory and of moving to the first step on the path of the lasting, comprehensive peace with a cease-fire enforced on land, at sea, and in the air.

Saddam Husayn Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Meeting

JN2008181488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

President Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

JN2008185288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired an Armed Forces General Command meeting. The General Command reviewed the last operations of our heroic armed units from the "Ramadan al-Mubarak" operations for the liberation of Al-Faw until the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah" and the "Muhammad Rasul Allah" battles as well as the operations launched before our forces withdrew to the international border.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; and Kamil Husayn, minister of industry and military industrialization.

Ramadan Receives PRC Deputy Foreign Minister

JN2008155688 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today received here Mr. Qi Huaiyuan, Chinese deputy foreign minister.

During the meeting, bilateral relations between Iraq and China and the importance of their expansion and development in the trade and economic fields were reviewed. Mr. Ramadan reviewed Iraq's peaceful stances since the first days of war which faced complete Iranian rejection to all peaceful resolutions and efforts and insistance on aggression. Mr. Ramadan affirmed Iraq's stand on the fact that peace should be permanent, integral and comprehensive in a way ensuring justice and legitimate rights of both sides.

The Chinese deputy foreign minister said his country supports full implementation of Resolution 598 as it is basis of attaining real peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region.

The meeting was attended by the foreign under-secretary and the Chinese ambassador in Baghdad.

PRC Minister Departs

JN2108102688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Qi Huaiyuan, Chinese deputy foreign minister, today concluded a 2-day official visit to Iraq and departed Baghdad. During his visit, the Chinese official met with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister.

Sa'dun Hammadi Leaves for Kuwait, PRC
JN2108161388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, left for Kuwait this afternoon. He will later leave Kuwait for Beijing with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on a visit to China to implement the decision of the 7-member Arab committee charged with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war, which met in Baghdad on 2 August.

In a statement to INA, the minister of state for foreign affairs said the delegation will explain to Chinese officials the stand of Iraq and other Arab countries calling for the establishment of a comprehensive and solid peace between Iraq and Iran based on noninterference in internal affairs and freedom of navigation in international waterways.

Mauritanian Envoy Arrives, Praises 'Victory'
JN2008173688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba, Mauritanian information minister and President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's envoy to President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, the Mauritanian minister expressed happiness with his visit to Baghdad at a time when the Iraqi people celebrate the great victory they have achieved. He said: It is an opportunity to share the joy of the Iraqi people. He described Iraq's victory as a victory for the Arab nation.

He was received at the airport by Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz al-Din and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Daily Warns Against Encouraging Iran 'To Manuver'
JN2008112688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Today's AL-THAWRAH warns against some parties' attempts to play games, encourage Iran to maneuver, and place obstacles on the path to comprehensive, honorable, and lasting peace. AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial that those who are making these attempts are in fact underestimating the Arab nation and opposing its security, interests, and legitimate rights. Such a stand also opposes the basic interests of the Iranian people

AL-THAWRAH says: Ending the war is no longer an Iraqi issue. It has become a basic Arab issue that concerns all Arab countries. Those who try to appease, revive, and encourage Iran to continue the war and aggression are really standing in the anti-Arab trench and exposing their interests in the Arab homeland and their relations with the Arab countries to grave dangers.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab nation, whose front in the Arab-Iranian conflict is Iraq, seeks only firm and genuine peace. The Iranian rulers should learn and finally abandon their dreams of expansion and aggression at the expense of Iraq and the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH points out the known facts during wartime: The Zionist and imperialist forces and their allies placed their weight and potentials in support of the Iranian regime and enabled it to prolong the aggressive war against Iraq and the Arab nation. The stand of these forces on ending the war and achieving comprehensive, just, and lasting peace is a suspect stand that calls for awareness and casts doubts.

Paper Notes Aim of 'Peace, Not Aggression'
JN2008120288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that Iraq will only accept what is legitimate and fair as well as what lays down a sound and firm foundation of a comprehensive and lasting peace. Iraq categorically rejects maneuvering, bias, and deception. In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Iraq moves toward peace with honest intentions because peace, not aggression, was its aim throughout the years of aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that since Iraq honestly and sincerely hopes that the direct negotiations with Iran on 25 August will succeed and yield a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement, it will maintain maximum awareness and alertness until peace becomes a reality.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Tehran rulers' behavior and statements since they announced their acceptance of Resolution No 598 until now show that they are still thinking with the same aggressive logic. The Tehran rulers fabricate lies and reasons, imagining that this will give them the strength and opportunity to obtain, through deception and maneuvering, what they failed to achieve in the violent fighting.

AL-JUMHURIYAH advises the Tehran rulers to avoid maneuvering, proceed to the negotiating table with a new spirit—the spirit of honest desire for peace—save the regional peoples from the pains of war, and relinquish playing games and maneuvering.

U.S. Consul Denies Talks With Palestinians

TA2308103788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In a new manifesto, the leaders of the uprising in the territories call upon the PLO to adopt a political strategy that could win international support. The manifesto urges the PNC to adopt a whole new platform that would dispel the uncertainty regarding the PLO's positions.

Phillip Wilcox, U.S. consul-general in East Jerusalem, met secretly with Palestinian personalities from the territories over the weekend. He exhorted them to take the initiative and start negotiating with Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in his meetings, the consul emphasized that the United States rejects the intention to revive UN Resolution 181, the partition resolution of 1947, and supports the principle of territories for peace. Consul Wilcox explained after the meeting that this was not an official meeting between a U.S. representative and Palestinian notables, but only an unofficial and nonbinding conference.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 23 August reports that "The American consul in East Jerusalem, Phillip Wilcox, has denied newspaper reports of a secret meeting with Palestinians in the territories." The radio cites AL-ANBA', without specifying further, as the source of these reports.]

Shamir Congratulates George Bush on Nomination

TA2208162488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a letter of congratulations to George Bush upon his nomination as the Republican Party's candidate for the U.S. Presidency. In his letter, Mr Shamir writes that the convention was a demonstration of U.S. democracy in action, adding that the Israeli public identifies with this display. Mr Shamir added that Israel highly esteems Mr Bush's friendship and the aid he has given it. This is reported by our correspondent Razi Barqay.

Delegation To Discuss Mideast With Soviets

TA2108065288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The Israeli consular delegation in the Soviet Union will discuss Middle East issues with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials. A report that reached Jerusalem indicates that the Soviets agreed to this extracurricular activity concurrently with an Israeli agreement that the Soviet consular delegation accredited to Israel deal with political issues that are not of a consular nature.

Contacted by telephone this morning, Meron Gordon, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, told us that it was still too early to talk about such a development.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 August in a report by Menahem Shalev on page one writes that "Gordon has also established contacts aimed at widening the cultural ties between Israel and the Soviet Union. This too, strictly speaking, is outside the official mandate of the mission."]

Delegate Returns, Briefs Shamir

TA2308071488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A member of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow has returned to Israel for consultations. He is Ya'aqov Qedmi, formerly Yasha Kazakov, a Soviet immigrant. He has already conferred with the prime minister and is scheduled to meet with the foreign minister as well. Our correspondent reports that this is a routine procedure in view of the fact that communication between Jerusalem and the delegation in Moscow is difficult. After his meetings in Israel, Mr Qedmi will return to Moscow.

Foreign Ministry 'Irked' About Soviet Reports

TA2208102188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Reports of Soviet openness towards the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow have irked the Foreign Ministry, which yesterday issued a statement claiming that "the news item according to which the delegation has been given a green light to deal with political affairs is, at best, premature."

Commenting on reports in yesterday's JERUSALEM POST and HA'ARETZ, ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said: "Having been well-received in the USSR, the Israeli consular delegation is busy promoting the issues with which it was authorized to deal in the framework of its mandate."

But informed sources maintained that a report received in Jerusalem stated that Soviet Foreign Ministry officials have agreed to allow the delegation to meet with officials of its political departments.

The Soviet consular mission, which arrived in Tel Aviv 11 months ago, has maintained regular political contacts with the Foreign Ministry here.

The ministry is sensitive to possible Soviet displeasure with attempts in the media here and abroad to "play up" the political significance of the delegation's presence in Moscow, and two weeks ago ordered its head, Meron Gordon, to maintain a lower media profile.

In the same vein, ministry officials were apparently disturbed about the perceived Soviet reaction to the interpretation here that by agreeing to political contact, the Soviets had, in effect, agreed to widen the scope of the mission's official mandate.

Sources here said last night that, technically speaking, the expected contacts with political departments of the Foreign Ministry would not, in themselves, constitute any widening of the mandate. These contacts, they stressed, would include "an exchange of views," and not talks with any practical political content.

Japanese Parliamentarian Meets With Shamir

TA2208092888 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today (Sunday) received Japanese Parliament Member Mr. Kazuo Aichi, who was accompanied by the Japanese ambassador to Israel.

The guest noted that he views himself as a friend of Israel's, and is interested in working to strengthen ties between the two countries. The prime minister stressed in his comments the importance that Israel attaches to strengthening its ties with Japan, which has gone from being an economic power of the highest order to a world political superpower. Mr. Shamir further noted that the Israeli people feel great friendship and esteem for the Japanese people, and requested that Mr. Aichi convey this message to his parliamentary colleagues.

Concerning events in the region, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the Iran-Iraq cease-fire, which went into effect yesterday. Mr. Shamir also expressed hope that the cease-fire will take hold, insomuch as Israel is interested in living in a peaceful region, and that the obtaining of peace with our neighbors is also the highest objective of the Shamir-led government. After having obtained peace with Egypt, we are also intent on peace with Jordan, which is the country with the longest common border with Israel. It is also our intent to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem, Mr. Shamir added. The prime minister expressed his faith that direct negotiations will bring about a solution to the dispute in the region.

Meets Peres

TA2208102788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 88 P 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel would welcome a Japanese role in Middle East peace efforts, Foreign Minister Peres told visiting Japanese parliamentarian Kazuo Aichi yesterday.

Aichi, formerly parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, is considered a rising star in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and is expected to be appointed to the cabinet in the near future.

Aichi met yesterday with Peres and Prime Minister Shamir. His visit is considered in Jerusalem another manifestation of Japan's desire to assume a more visible—and political—role in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Peres said that the improvement of Japan's ties with Israel should not be at the expense of its links with the Arab world.

Japan can contribute to the stability of the area by investing in regional economic ventures, he said. As an example, Peres mentioned the possibility of Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in building a canal from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea to raise the constantly decreasing water level of the Dead Sea.

PRC Citizen Seeks Political Asylum

TA2108141388 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Aug 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by Betzal'el Rubin]

[Excerpt] A young Chinese who arrived in Elat as a stowaway, is seeking political asylum in Israel. Yang Ka [name as published], a 22-year-old resident of the town of Shakono [placename as published] in the PRC, was found on Thursday night on board the Turkish ship Uzunoglu as it approached Elat port. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Minister Criticizes Territory Policy

JN2108170588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, received in Cairo today Shim'on Shamir, the new Israeli ambassador to Egypt. Ghali told reporters following the meeting that he expressed to the ambassador his concern over the situation in the territories. He criticized the measures that Israel is taking to face this situations. These measures, he said, constitute an obstacle to peace.

Shamir said after the meeting that he explained to the Egyptian official the need for restoring calm and order to the territories before starting serious negotiations to push forward the peace process in the region.

Peres Interviewed on Palestinians, West Bank

JN2208163488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 22 Aug 88

["Exclusive interview" with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by unidentified Jerusalem Arabic radio reporters—date, place not given; all questions are followed by a brief recording of Peres' answers in Hebrew fading into superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Question] Mr Peres, a few days ago the local newspaper MA'ARIV published a caricature in which Yasir 'Arafat was seen mounting the horse of political initiative. Beside him were the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister mounting a tortoise. Does this picture symbolize the true political situation?

[Peres] The horse and tortoise should decide their direction because if the horse is galloping in the wrong direction, then the fact that it is galloping fast does not make it preferable. Therefore, the decision should take two factors into consideration: direction and method. I do not think this caricature depicts the true situation because 'Arafat's direction is unknown. On the other hand, I support the open-door policy toward the Palestinians. I realize quite well that every Palestinian wants to achieve at least three things:

1. A fair solution to his issue; 2. To be honorably treated as a human being and a son of the Arab people—there is no reason for not treating him with respect and honor—and 3. He should not suffer economically for his political opinions. All these things are acceptable to me.

I propose to the Arabs and Palestinians a fair solution to their problem, in addition to territorial concessions. I also propose negotiations on the basis of mutual respect without any insult. I also suggest that no harm should be inflicted on the Arab economy just as no harm should be inflicted on the security of the Jewish people. I would like to tell you something else. The war is a one-time event, but peace is a long path on which one sometimes faces failure and disappointment. However, a man like me will not fear such things. My aim is peace.

[Question] But King Husayn said in an interview with a U.S. newspaper that there is no Israeli option.

[Peres] If this is true, he should have waited until after the elections. It is not understood why he did what he did before the Israeli elections, in which the direction of the Israeli march will be defined. According to all public opinion polls, at least 50 percent of the people support our policy. Such a situation, very regrettably, does not exist in the Arab countries.

If we win the elections—and this is what I hope—I will address Jordan and say we are ready to begin talks with you whether about borders with Jordan or the Palestine question. If you want us to begin talks about borders, please do so. If you want talks to deal with the Palestine question, then too, an agreement should then be reached on the Palestinian delegation.

In the meantime, I will address the Palestinians in the territories and tell them: Do not postpone your decision more than that. We will not impose on your delegation to the talks any ideological or political surveillance. You can come to the negotiating table with any opinion you desire. Renounce terrorism and abandon violence and Molotov cocktails. Let us hold talks among ourselves. We can begin talks on the Palestine question as a first stage during which we decide when and how the other parties, including Jordan, can be invited to the negotiating table because the real link between the Palestinian segments in Jordan and here cannot be ignored. That is in addition to the issue of common borders. By that I mean that we will approach both sides—Jordan and the Palestinians—at the same time.

[Question] Mr Peres, do you think King Husayn will revoke his decision to dismantle the relationship with the West Bank, and under what circumstances?

[Peres] If he does not wish to reverse his decision, it will be possible to hold talks with him on peace between Jordan and Israel and bilateral relations. Naturally, I will ask the Jordanians: Do you want to wait until the Palestinian issue is resolved? The Egyptians took a step forward, so why do you not follow suit? We will address the Palestinians, too. They, in turn, should make up their minds. They cannot play the role of the angry man all the time. We open the door for negotiations and close the door for terrorism. We tell them: Enter through the open door and stop knocking at the closed door.

[Question] Some people claim that those Palestinians who may take part in the negotiations are either in Ansar prison or have received deportation orders.

[Peres] First, there are a sufficient number of Palestinians who can honorably and seriously represent their brothers. The problem lies not in a shortage of Palestinian representatives but their emancipation from the fear of negotiating with Israel. As long as they are under pressure and threats, no one can negotiate. It does not matter whether they are in Ansar prison or in the prison of fear. At the moment terrorism stops, there will be no need for Ansar prison, and no one will be sent to prison. We do not arrest people because of their views. I do not think that the problem lies in the creation of a Palestinian leadership, because such a leadership currently exists. The problem is removing this leadership's fear.

Terrorism, which was supposed to be a threat to Israel, constitutes a greater danger to the Palestinians. There is no shortage of Palestinian leaders and intellectuals. The problem, I say again, is how to emancipate them from the fear of assassination. The PLO is facing a problem; namely, to maintain PLO unity, Yasir 'Arafat is obliged

to introduce the factor of terrorism. This creates a bizarre mixture of politics and terrorism. This mixture will never achieve anything.

Within the framework of a political settlement, I support elections in the territories. In 1976, when I was the defense minister, we held municipal elections. I do not reject the idea of elections if we reach any understanding within a political settlement even if this happens at the first stage of this settlement.

[Question] What do you think is the political message that the incidents in the territories must end up with?

[Peres] If I were a Palestinian Arab, I would end them in the way late President Anwar al-Sadat ended Yom Kippur war in 1973. I mean that Al-Sadat was feeling proud on one hand, but he realized, on the other, that he had reached a climax and could not achieve more. He, then, moved toward negotiations. The uprising cannot end in victory. It must lead to negotiations, and this is the real victory.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, there is much talk now about the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile. What will the dimensions of such a step be?

[Peres] Such a step will place the PLO elements in a predicament, because it is difficult for these elements to agree on the territories or inhabitants they mean. Let us suppose that they mean the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. Will this mean they concede what they call as the right to repatriation? The second problem concerns the border. If they declare a Palestinian state on all parts of Israel, then this is a declaration of war, not independence. In other words, the outcome of negotiations cannot precede the negotiations themselves. This is a mistake that will complicate things. If a Palestinian government-in-exile is based on the Palestinian charter, then this will complicate things even further.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, we now move to issues of concern to Arab citizens in Israel. They have lived through five wars between Israel and the Arab world but now feel confused and intrigued over the incidents in the territories.

[Peres] Israeli Arabs may become victims of themselves. They have the opportunity to vote for the Knesset and choose 15 of its members. If they made an appropriate political decision, at least in my opinion, they will immediately achieve two main goals for which they yearn, and I join them in this: First, equality—and I mean among all citizens and second, peace between Israel and the Arab countries. If the Arab citizens give their voices to one of the parties that may join the government, it will be possible to achieve a parlimentary majority for the sake of equality and peace. If the Arab citizens vote for parties that do not join the government, they dissipate their voices. If they boycot the Knesset elections, they will deprive themselves of the influence they enjoy.

Plans for Satellite Launching Discussed

Shamir Gives No Comment

TA2308135388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Here is a report by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir refuses to either confirm or deny reports that Israel plans to launch a satellite into orbit.

[Begin Shamir recording] I cannot comment on this, but everybody knows that Israel has great ability in many fields. [end recording]

Called 'Joint Project'

TA2308052788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The defense establishment still refuses to comment on reports that Israel is soon to launch an intelligence satellite into orbit. Our army affairs correspondent recalls that according to the reports, this is a joint project undertaken by the Armaments Development Authority and the Israel Aircraft Industries. Work on the intelligence satellite is said to have begun 5 years ago, when the Israeli Space Agency was first established.

Prof Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the agency, said the body he heads is involved in the launching of several satellites for scientific and communications purposes.

Commentary on Satellite Need

TA2108180288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Aug 88 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "On Satellites and Missiles"]

[Text] Reports that Israel is developing a communications satellite named "Amos" which is scheduled to be launched into orbit by a French missile within a few years shows that Israel has seriously entered the space era. Quietly and without unnecessary fanfare, Israeli scientific and technological systems and high-tech industries succeed in doing what numerous countries are still incapable of doing. This attests to a very up-to-date ability in many fields, such as physics, electronics, advanced materials research, and optics. Experts say that a satellite is made up of thousands of components, which cannot be manufactured by just one factory but rather must be fabricated by many factories capable of developing such miniature parts with utmost accuracy.

"Amos" is supposed to be a communications satellite, but experts will tell you that anybody capable of manufacturing such a satellite can also try to develop a military satellite. Obviously, there are differences, but they are insignificant when it comes to development and manufacturing ability. If Israel has reached the conclusion that it must invest in the development of an independent communications satellite, all the more reason why it should put is mind to the development of a military satellite. The Middle East's energetic stride into the era of long-range ballistic missiles calls for a lot of thought on the issue on our part.

The evolution of weapons systems proves that the Israeli Air Force might find it more difficult than in the past to penetrate deep into enemy territory either for the purpose of photographic surveillance or to strike at vital targets liable to determine the outcome of the battle. The Arabs' surface-to-surface missile systems, which will probably be developed in the next decade, further oblige Israel to increase its early warning abilities.

It is easier for countries with satellites to detect the location of missiles before and after they are fired. In other words, an Israeli satellite would become one of the most important means to prevent a sudden strike on Israel. In this respect, an Israeli military satellite could be a first-rate defensive tool. Such a system would increase Israel's deterrent power in the face of its enemies.

The Arabs are aware of such a possibility and realize that Israel has no other choice in view of the missiles being purchased by the Arab armies. Among other things, the Arab journal ISTRATIJIYAH 'ARABIYAH [not further identified] wrote last July: "A satellite could broaden Israel's capability in terms of reconnaissance surveillance, and early warning. The question of early warning is increasingly gaining prominence in the Israeli military-strategic set-up in view of the fact that the armies of the region have introduced the use of sophisticated weapons which largely nullify geographic and strategic depth factors.

This applies particularly to the long-range missiles, which will play a major role in the deterrence strategy of the Arabs in the next decade. A satellite could provide Israel with better ability in terms of command, control, and communications in the battlefield, particularly if we assume that the means Israel uses today, such as the Hawkeye aircraft, would in the next few years be vulnerable to the Arabs' countermeasures. A satellite would also enable Israel to control troops at remote locations and make course corrections for airplanes and missiles en route to targets deep in Arab territory." The article concludes that "a satellite would increase the influence and effectiveness of Israel's deterrent power and would give Israel moral [as published] superiority over the Arab side."

It seems to me that this article, written by an Arab strategist, is most persuasive in terms of the need for an Israeli military satellite.

The French, who are scheduled to launch the Israeli "Amos" satellite into orbit with the missile "Arienne" (at a stiff price, of course) will probably make this conditional on the satellite being used for civilian purposes only. If that is the case, will Israel be helpless? Over the years, it has frequently been reported in the foreign press that Israel has surface-to-surface missiles called "Jericho" with a range exceeding 1,000 kms. Occasionally there have been reports, usually in the United States, that Israel has conducted a firing test with its long-range missiles. If these reports are true, it should be no problem for Israel to join the exclusive club of countries that have sent satellites into orbit. These countries include the United States, the Soviet Union, and France on the one hand and the PRC, Japan, and India on the other. So, why not Israel?

This would by no means be a simple operation, not even from the technological point of view. First of all, it would be a huge undertaking financially. It would be wrong to estimate its cost as that of just one satellite, which amounts to several dozen million dollars. After the first satellite, even if its launching proved successful, other satellites would have to follow. The expensive launching systems must also be taken into account. Hence, this would be a vast operation whose price tag might be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Where would the money come from? Israel recently called off the Lavi project because of its cost. The state is currently waging an uphill struggle in almost every field because of a lack of resources. Hospitals are collapsing, and the IDF is forced to slash its budget. Some will probably wonder: Is such a large expense on a satellite really of such high priority?

About a month ago, after his visit to Beijing, George Shultz said had heard from the PRC Government that except for the deal with Saudi Arabia, it was not contemplating a deal for the supply of ballistic missiles to countries in the Middle East. Shultz said that three weapons could undermine stability: nuclear weapons, the chemical weapons used profusely in the Gulf war, and—at this point he added the third type of weapons—ballistic missiles. Therefore, the Americans would not look fondly on yet another show of strength in this area given that they still hope to slow down the ballistic missile race.

The Arabs would probably say that what Israel has done is one of the reasons why they have been acquiring surface-to-surface missiles, and that it is not up to them that people should address their complaints, when they are merely trying to prepare a response to Israel's moves, of which they have only recently learned. These are important questions in terms of political timing and expense. The day will come when Israel will no longer be able to shirk them due to developments in the balance of power in the region.

Sharon Explains Plan for Territories

TA1908201288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ In Hebrew
19 Aug 88 p B 2

[Report on interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Ilan Shehori in Sharon's office "late last week"]

[Excerpts] This week Minister Ari'el Sharon was the Likud's "enfant terrible." He stood up against Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and all the other Likud ministers, and went searching for supporters for his plan to annex parts of Judaea and Samaria according to the Allon Plan. He did that despite the Likud ministers' resolutions and against the opinions of various election advisers, who advised against adopting hawkish stands so as not to intimidate the undetermined voters, mainly those who have not yet chosen between the Likud and the Alignment. [passage omitted]

Late last week, in a long conversation in his office, Sharon explained that his annexation plan is bound to attract voters for the Likud. For the first time he explicitly spoke of his desire to man the defense portfolio again. He made it clear, however, that the foreign or the finance portfolios could also be considered. He is bitter for not being among the Likud election headquarters' policy makers. He claims that he is being kept away from the Likud's financial think tank for fear that his power within the movement would grow. He does not object to adding the Labor Party to a government headed by Shamir after the elections. Sharon also says that he has a "resounding answer" to the Alignment if it tries to discredit him in connection with the Lebanon war. [passage omitted]

[Shehori] The Likud ministers have never been as united as they were in rejecting your plan. Are you disappointed with your colleagues in the government?

[Sharon] It is not a question of disappointment. I see the seriousness of the matter. Others might not see it yet. It must be understood that drastic steps can only be taken when the time is right for them. We missed such an opportunity at the time of Husayn's speech, but we have another chance now, before the PLO declares a government. We must not miss this opportunity. Whoever thinks that I would stop trying to win support for my plan is wrong.

I will soon start taking military correspondents on tours of Judaea and Samaria to show them what I mean on the spot. I will also invite Knesset members and Likud supporters and activists so they can understand how vitally important the issue is. I am not against Camp David and the autonomy plan; I only suggest that they be implemented to areas beyond those included in the Allon Plan.

[Shehori] Do you not see the logic in the fact that the Likud election headquarters is trying to silence you so as to not intimidate the voters' support? Do you have any criticism of the Likud's election propaganda?

[Sharon] I have no criticism. It is just that I believe they are only doing part of what they should. They talk about undecided voters; do the advisers and the election headquarters leaders think that the voters do not understand? Are these floating voters not thinking people? These are intelligent people who want answers.

[Shehori] What do you mean exactly?

[Sharon] Action should be taken in other matters, mainly in the important, difficult, and serious matters that are on our agenda today. I do not believe that there is anyone in the Likud who does not see the danger inherent in the planned PLO declaration of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. In the meantime, this is nothing but talk. But it can actually happen, and will have grave consequences in the territories themselves in terms of increased terrorist activity and a call for rebellion by the popular committees.

The main issue, therefore, is not the floating votes or votes escaping from us to go more to the right. What I am presenting is beyond partisan considerations. I do not believe that there is a person in the Likud's leadership who cannot tell the difference between a central national issue and elections matters. These issues are far more important than propaganda or election considerations.

[Shehori] Why did you choose this particular time to seek supporters for annexation? Some say that the timing is very bad. Are you acting out of partisan interests in order to receive an important role in the post-election government?

[Sharon] I am acting now because things are happening now. There are no partisan interests. This is rubbish. I see what is happening in the area. A psychological vacuum, with its own dynamics, has been created. This vacuum will have to be filled. Sooner or later the PLO will announce a government and a state. That state's borders, wherever they may run, would have to be inside the bounds of Eretz Yisra'el. The threat that many countries in the world would recognize such a Palestinian state also exists. Changes we might wish to make later would encounter great international objection. Annexation is easier today for various reasons.

The PLO has not yet announced a government-in-exile and we can take advantage of the psychological effect of this. We should also remember that the United States is in the midst of an election campaign. There is no doubt that from our point of view the timing is better now. Another reason is the fact that the Israeli leadership is getting weaker, especially the Alignment's. This is a gradual process of leaders growing weaker. The Alignment has completely lost its way. It is not clear whether the future leadership will be able to do what

can be done today. The future might make us a weaker nation, lacking areas vital for our defense, standing against the Arabs who are quickly getting stronger. [passage omitted]

[Shehori] If the Likud wins the elections, will you be against the Alignment's joining a broad-based government? I mainly refer to Shim'on Peres.

[Sharon] I have always supported the national unity government. I would only be supportive of the Alignment joining a unity government if it is led by the Likud and if there is no rotation agreement. There are no personal interests here and every party can elect its candidates to the government. I have no doubt that after the elections, a broad-based government will be needed, mainly to deal with four national issues: defense, politics, economy, and aliyah. [passage omitted]

Gives Details of Annexation

TA2208170988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon toured Samaria today accompanied by military correspondents. Minister Sharon explained to the correspondents the details of his plan to implement Israeli law over several parts of Judaea and Samaria. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports Mr Sharon emphasized that only 200,000 Arabs live in the areas under consideration. Sharon does not recommend implementing Israeli law over cities such as Janin, Nabulus, Ramallah, Al-Birah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah, which could remain as enclaves.

Our correspondent adds that Minister Sharon warned of the danger of the PLO declaring independence in Judaea and Samaria. Many countries would recognize this independence and violence would increase, according to Sharon. Sharon claims that his plan would put an end to the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state.

Deportation Seen as Policy of 'Desperation'

TA1908113288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Aug 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Crackdown Syndrome"]

[Text] Israel's defence authorities have evidently decided they must at all costs prevent local Palestinians associated with PLO popular committees in the towns of the West Bank and Gaza from stepping into the political vacuum caused by Jordan's withdrawal. But in outlawing these committees, the authorities have wielded a massive brush. For the new ruling embraces not only committee members but any any person who "helps" the committees. All such are subject to arrest.

Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, these committees have become the focus of local activity. Thousands, if not tens of thousands, of people have some contact with them. What then will the new draconian measures mean? Are huge numbers of people now to be arrested, perhaps deported? And who will decide what degree of cooperation with the committees merits punishments?

The real problem facing Israel in the territories is not how to find and remove the leadership of an uprising, but rather how to cope with a grass roots civil rebellion. For this, jails and deportations do not provide better answers than clubs and tear gas. The places of those who are removed will simply be taken by others. At best, such crackdowns are short-term expedients. But they are useless in the long term.

If the new measures are merely meant as a stop gap until after the elections when a new government may be able to forge a coherent political response to the Palestinians, they would at least have the virtue of acknowledged desperation. However, there is a danger that the defence authorities and the government may truly believe they are an answer to the intifada [uprising—FBIS]. Then we have desperation in the guise of policy.

The record of Israel's actions in the territories offers little basis for reassurance.

Deportation of 15 Denied

TA2108101188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani and Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Despite the outlawing of the "popular committees" of the intifada [uprising] last week by the Ministry of Defence, the IDF and police will arrest only central figures in the "strike forces" of the intifada who are linked to the PLO, reliable security sources disclosed last night.

The sources added that "there will not be mass arrests, we do not intend to arrest popular committee members whose only activity is community service like aid to needy families or blood donations."

The security source denied reports about the expected deportation of another 15 Palestinian activists—25 were ordered deported last week—but he said, "We will no doubt continue the deportation policy as we have during the last nine months of the intifada."

The security source added that "the new steps, the outlawing of the committees and the expulsions, will slow the intifada but will not stop it completely. It is too late to stop it now, despite the political echelon's wish. The intifada will continue whether we want it or not."

In incidents reported at the weekend, two Gaza Strip residents were shot and wounded and at least 20 people, including an 85-year-old woman, were reportedly treated for injuries sustained by beatings and tear gas as residents clashed with soldiers throughout the Strip.

The curfew that had been imposed on all the Gaza Strip on Sunday night was lifted from the cities and a few refugee camps on Wednesday and this morning only the curfew on the refugee camp of Al-Nusayrat was in effect.

The two Palestinians shot were identified as Ramadan al-Suwayr, 67, injured during a violent demonstration in Gaza City, and Muhammad Musa Hamdan, 18, from Rafah.

Amna Mansur, 85, of the Al-Shaja'iyah neighbourhood in Gaza reportedly sustained fractures in both legs and was taken to Al-Shifa' Hospital.

The deepest impact was created by thousands of Gazans chanting "Allah Akbar" from midnight to 4 a.m. throughout town, chants that were also broadcast over mosque loudspeakers. "It was the first time anything like this happened here," a resident said.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 21 August in a report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin on page two adds: "Riots which resulted in casualties were reported yesterday in the village of Bayt I'nan near Ramallah. According to local residents, a youngster was wounded by gunfire. Incidents were reported in several other locations, including Nabulus, Qalqilyah, Al-Birah, Ramallah, Tulkarm, and the village of Bani Na'im near Hebron, during which stones were thrown at civilian and IDF vehicles.

"A 2-day commercial strike was staged in Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur to protest the deportation orders issued to inhabitants of the territories."]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Hundreds' Protest Policy

TA2108061588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] A large protest demonstration with hundreds of participants took place in the Israeli Arab village of Umm al-Fahm yesterday to denounce the government's policy towards Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The Hadash Communist Party organized the rally as part of a series of events being planned in the area. Our reporter says the PLO flag was carried during yesterday's march, and the local police have begun an investigation.

Islamic Activists Lead Strike

TA2208092688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Aug 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg, Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement yesterday succeeded for the first time in enforcing a strike in large areas of the West Bank. The strike was called to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the arson attempt on Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The shutdown was called ahead of a general strike set for today by the PLO-backed "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," to protest against Israeli tax raids on Palestinian merchants.

In the Gaza Strip, where the Islamic Resistance (known by its Arab acronym, "Hamas") has organized several succeessful strikes, a day-long general strike was observed. [passage omitted]

Activists of the Islamic Resistance who enforced the strike encountered opposition from shopkeepers in Nabulus, who protested against the closure of their stores an extra day, local sources said. Sharp arguments broke out, but the merchants finally shuttered their shops.

In Ramallah, an altercation broke out between Islamic Resistance and Fatah activists over the strike. Local sources said it was because it pre-empted the shutdown called by the Fatah-led underground leadership. [passage omitted]

Residents of the Al-Shati' refugee camp broke the curfew and clashed with troops who fired tear-gas. Eight people required medical treatment there, UNRWA reported. [passage omitted]

At Al-Nusayrat authorities gathered about 500 people, questioned them and made many arrests, a local source reported. No details were available. On the West Bank, there were clashes throughout the morning betwween soldiers and demonstrators in the Nabulus casbah. Local sources said the unrest began in the early morning, when Islamic activists leaving prayers set up barricades and burned tyres. The IDF reported three persons shot and wounded in clashes, but sources in Nabulus said six persons were wounded by gunfire. They said a man had been hit in the eye by a rubber bullet, and a youth severely beaten.

Palestinian reports said a man was seriously injured at Bal'a near Tulkarm when he was struck in the face by several rubber bullets.

'Askar Resident Dies

TA2208103788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] One resident of the 'Askar refugee camp died and four were wounded during last night's operation launched by the security forces. A curfew was imposed in Nabulus as part of the operation. Our correspondent in the territories 'Eran Ben-Porat reports:

[Begin recording] Last night, the security forces initiated activities in anticipation of the commercial strike declared by the residents of the territories, imposing a curfew on Nabulus as part of these actions. During the forces' activities in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, five local residents were wounded and taken to Al-Ittihad Hospital. One of the wounded, Ahmad Muhammad Husayn, died there.

The commercial strike in the territories is complete. Stores have been closed since morning, and Bethlehem and Tulkarm workers did not leave for their jobs in Israel. Municipal and government offices are functioning normally but public transportation is sparse.

A curfew was also imposed on the Al-Am'ari, Qalandiyah and Tulkarm refugee camps. [end recording]

'Dozens' Injured in Riots

TA2208174688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Text] Security forces had obtained information that Arabs were organizing widespread violence in the territories, so the army and security services decided to beat the Palestinians to the punch. Overnight the army raided several refugee camps and neighborhoods in the Nabulus area. They arrested dozens of people. In the 'Askar refugee camp the soldiers met resistance, and they fired at Arab residents. Five Arabs were injured, a 22-year-old resident later died of his wounds. The army says it is investigating.

Disturbances erupted later in the Tulkarm area. In the Nur al-Shams refugee camp soldiers battled rioters and fired tear gas canisters. Later, Tulkarm hospital reported admitting a man injured by gunfire. The army spokesman's office says the soldiers did not use live fire.

Disturbances were also reported in the Samarian town of Qalqilyah, where one Arab was shot in the leg.

Tonight the army is maintaining curfews in several areas in Samaria. This includes the refugee camps around Nabulus, including Balatah, 'Askar, and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma'. In addition, the refugee camps of Tulkarm and Al-Am'ari are under curfew.

The Gaza Strip was rocked by massive violence this evening. Security and Arab sources said the focus of the clashes took place in the refugee camps of Al-Shati' and Jabalyah. Residents blocked roads, burned tires, and threw stones and bottles at Army troops. Arab and hospital sources report dozens of people being admitted for tear gas inhalation, as well as gunshot wounds. The Army spokesman's office in Gaza acknowledges the clashes and the injuries, but at this hour won't say how many people were wounded.

Today's clashes came as the Arabs of the territories observed the general strike. Once again, the stores were closed, transportation was shut down, and few Arab laborers reported to their jobs in Israel.

3 Houses Demolished in Gaza

TA2308043088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday's events in the territories, which were marked by their turbulence and which were manifested in strikes and riots, resulted in 1 dead and 23 injured, 3 of them seriously. The most serious incident occurred at 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, in which a 22-year-old youth was killed and four were injured. In Qalqilyah, a youth was shot and wounded as he was about to hurl a brick at an IDF patrol. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, the security forces demolished three houses belonging to squad members who threw firebombs.

The curfew on the Al-Shati', Jabalyah, and Al-Burayj refugee camps as well as on the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza continues today. The curfew on three refugee camps near Nabulus, as well as on another three in Samaria, is also in effect.

IDF, Police Report Incidents

TA2308120288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Aug 88 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] The number of security detainees held by the IDF is estimated at 5,000, of whom some 300 are members of the popular committees. Some 32 terror organization activists and riot organizers have been deported in the past 9 months. Deportation orders have been issued against 25 others.

The security forces have demolished or sealed 78 houses as a punitive measure. IDF logs register 13,319 events termed "disturbances." These are events that required IDF intervention.

In addition, 4,314 incidents in which rioters used various weapons have been registered. These include the use of firearms, hand grenades, Molotov cocktails, and knives. The number of incidents in which firebombs were thrown exceeds 1,020.

The police report that they handled 5,101 violent events in the past 6 months, according to the following breakdown: 103 cases of setting forests and fields on fire; 656 cases of arson directed against cars; 490 incidents of firebomb throwing in the territories and 15 within the Green Line; 3,517 cases of stone throwing in the territories, plus 12 in the Coastal Plain, 153 in Jerusalem, and 165 inside the Green Line.

SLA Kills 1 'Terrorist' in Attack on Border

TA2008113388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers last night repulsed an attempt to take over a position of theirs on the security zone border. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that one of the attacking terrorists was killed, and it seems they suffered additional casualties. The SLA soldiers sustained no casualties. The SLA soldiers detected the terrorists as they approached the fences around the position, directing automatic weapons fire at them. The body of the killed terrorist was discovered this morning, along with blood and other signs that led to the conclusion that the assailants had additional casualties.

Attorneys Urge Probe of Detention Deaths

TA2308105488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Attorneys from the territories and from Israel representing individuals charged with involvement in disturbances of the public order have demanded that a commission of inquiry be set up to look into events in the Qezi'ot detention facility. They are also demanding an investigation of the circumstances of the suicide of the detainees in the Al-Zahiriyah lockup facility and the Russian Compound detention center [in Jerusalem].

The attorneys are holding a sit-down strike near the International Red Cross offices in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent has learned that earlier this week, attorneys from the territories and East Jerusalem convened and decided to present obstacles to legal proceedings in the military courts by refusing to strike plea bargain deals. They believe that this will cause major delays in those courts.

Captain Implicated

TA2308052088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The investigation into last week's riot at the Qezi'ot facility indicates that one of the two casualties was hit by shrapnel, not by a bullet. He is Asad Zaki al-Shawwa of Gaza. The other victim, 'Ali Ibrahim Hammudi of Al-Yamun in Samaria, was hurt by a bullet fired by an officer holding the rank of captain, not a senior officer as reported earlier. The above is included in a report on the debriefing submitted to the commander of the Southern Command. The military police are still continuing their investigation at the detention center. As part of this process, they will question the commander of the installation and the deputy commander, as well as other officers and regular servicemen.

Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that the chief of the IDF Manpower Branch and the commander of the Military Police toured the site yesterday.

Inmate 'Deliberately Shot'

TA2108073588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian prisoner killed during a riot at the Qezi'ot detention camp last week was deliberately shot at close range by a top officer of the facility, and his evacuation was delayed, according to inmates who spoke to visitors at the camp over the weekend.

Troops opened fire with live ammunition after they ran out of tear-gas and their rubber-bullet canisters jammed, officers told the visitors.

The IDF Southern Command spokesman declined to comment last night on details of the accounts. He said that an officer appointed by OC [Officer Commanding] Southern Command Yitzhaq Mordechai was investigating the incident "in detail, from every angle," and that the results of his inquiry would be submitted to Mordechai early this week.

After making an initial inquiry at Qezi'ot last week, Mordechai said that the troops had acted properly. Two prisoners were killed and at least one wounded during the August 16 riot at Qezi'ot. Located in the Negev near the Egyptian border, the camp holds at least 2,500 administrative detainees.

Inmates at the camp's "A" compound began an open-ended hunger strike on Wednesday last week, and detainees in compound "B," where the killing took place, were on a hunger strike until Thursday last week, prisoners reported.

Following is a composite account of events at Qezi'ot, as reported to independent interviewers by three sources: prisoners held near the section where the shooting took place, who learned of the events from their fellow inmates; a released prisoner from the Hebron area who witnessed the riot; and soldiers at Qezi'ot:

On the morning of August 16, several detainees who were taken from section B-3 to clean soldiers' quarters refused to carry out the work, saying the Geneva Convention forbids labour by administrative detainees. As

punishment, all inmates in the section were ordered out of their tents and compelled to sit on the ground for at least an hour with their hands behind their backs in intense heat.

In the early afternoon, soldiers with gas masks and clubs went to section B-3 and an armoured vehicle rolled up next to the area, as a Red Cross delegation arrived to visit the section. The delegation left the scene when the violence erupted.

Trouble started when an officer took a prisoner out of section B-3 and clubbed him as he walked him out of the compound. Prisoners who witnessed the beating from adjacent sections began shouting, "Don't hit him, stop," and "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great). Within seconds, all prisoners in the compound were chanting "Allahu Akbar," and hurling tin food trays, stones dug out of the ground and other objects over a high fence surrounding the area.

(According to the released prisoner, the trouble began earlier, when prisoners, after sitting on the ground for two hours, defied orders, got up and began walking to their tents.)

Troops under the command of the top officer responded with a heavy volley of tear-gas canisters (50 to 60 landed in section B-1), and rubber bullets. After about an hour, soldiers fired live ammunition in the air, and then shot into the tent sections toward the ground.

The top officer ran toward section B-5, where he pulled out his pistol, shoved it through a gate and shouted to prisoners to get back in their tents. One prisoner, Asad al-Shawwa of Gaza, refused, and in response to a query from the officer, identified himself and said "Go ahead and shoot me."

The officer took an M-16 rifle from another soldier and shot Al-Shawwa in the upper chest. The bullet exited through his back. When prisoners called soldiers to evacuate Al-Shawwa, the officer said, "Leave him alone." The evacuation was delayed for several minutes because troops were unable to locate a soldier with the key to the lock of the compound gate. The lock was finally broken by the same top officer, and Al-Shawwa was treated at the camp clinic before being evacuated by helicopter to Beersheba, where he died.

Two prisoners were wounded in the B-1 section: one was overcome by tear-gas, and a second was struck in the back by either a bullet fragment, or a rubber bullet. When IDF medics arrived, the top officer again told them to leave the wounded alone, but they were evacuated by another soldier.

Another prisoner was killed in unclear circumstances, and, according to one account, a third prisoner was wounded.

News of the deaths and injuries aggravated the riot, which according to one account spread to the A compound and involved some 2,200 prisoners. [passage omitted]

Peres Supports Banning KAKH Movement List

TA2208184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he will support any initiative to ban the KAKH Movement prior to the upcoming elections. Shim'on Peres says that on this issue he will be happy to cooperate with the Likud. Shim'on Peres was guest of the Jordan Valley regional council this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Shim'on Peres today declared that regardless of how many seats the polls give KAKH, the Alignment will fully support any initiative by the Likud or any other party to ban this list:

[Peres] I will certainly support any initiative aimed at outlawing any racist and anti-democratic parties. Democracy is entitled to defend itself.

[Hecht] Peres does not hinge many hopes on, and does not attribute great significance to 'Arafat's upcoming speech in the European Parliament. Peres says it will merely be another speech which will probably be followed by a denial. Peres noted, on the other hand, that the grenade which exploded in Haifa could not be denied. According to Peres the increasing violence in the territories and around Israel is to a large extent a result of the complete political stalemate.

[Peres] I believe that the fact that we cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, that human dignity is being trampled, and violence is increasing on all sides has an adverse effect on the situation.

[Hecht] Regarding Prime Minister Shamir's statement that the intifada [uprising] may continue for another 9 years, Peres said: Oh, what a wonderful vision. [passage omitted]

King Congratulates Saddam Husayn on Cease-Fire

JN2008193888 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] His majesty the king congratulated the Iraqi leaders, Army, and people on the implementation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran which took effect today. This came during a telephone call his majesty made this evening to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. His majesty wished the brotherly people of Iraq continued progress and prosperity.

King Husayn Leaves on Visit to UAE

JN2108151388 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 21 Aug (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for the UAE on a working visit during which he will meet with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. His majesty will discuss recent developments in the Arab Gulf, particularly following the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, and relations between the two fraternal countries. His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the ministers, and several officials. His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by a delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd; and his majesty's private secretary, 'Ali ibn Nayif.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, before His Majesty King Husayn and in the presence of the ministers, took the constitutional oath as regent during his majesty's absence from the homeland.

Returns, Assesses Meeting

JN2208140088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this afternoon following a 2-day working visit to the UAE. During the visit, his majesty held talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders on current Arab issues and ways to bolster bilateral relations in the service of the two sisterly countries and the interests of the entire Arab nation. The talks also dealt with Gulf developments in light of the Iraq-Iran cease-fire and the efforts being exerted to reach a comprehensive, peaceful resolution of the conflict in the region. [passage omitted] The Jordanian delegation accompanying his majesty also returned home. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Praises Visit

JN2208062988 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Aug 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial:"On the Path of Consultations and Joint Coordination"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the UAE, and his meeting with his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, comes within the framework of true Arab brotherhood ties and on the basis of the tradition of consultations and joint coordination. The visit also affirms the continued adherence of Jordanian diplomacy to meetings and consultations in the interest of the Arab nation and its just causes.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the UAE comes amid favorable Arab circumstances to bolster solidarity, to close ranks, and to rebuild the formula for joint Arab action in a way that will be able to face the challenges of the current stage and which can deal with its developments according to a pan-Arab outlook that is harmonious and determined by the supreme Arab interest. Undoubtedly, the end of the Gulf war has paved a broad path for the Arab region to enter a new phase. It is expected that peace, the practical applications of which have begun on the ground, will end the black clouds which covered the Gulf for 8 consecutive years. The march of building, development, progress, prosperity, stability, and security can then begin for all peoples of the Arabian Gulf.

Jordan looks to the future with full confidence and hope after the fraternal Arab states in the region began to regain their security and look to the future with a spirit of confidence and hope, particularly after they have seen that the continuation of war and its consequences, have effected, in one way or another, the Gulf's security, resources, and safety, and threatened the future of the whole region. His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the UAE will contribute to strengthening Arab solidarity ties and enhance the effectiveness of joint Arab action. On the bilateral level, it will accomplish all that is expected from it and will achieve everything that the two peoples are longing for.

Court Minister on Severance of West Bank Ties

PM1908094188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Aug 88 pp 21-22

[Unattributed interview with Royal Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [AL-MAJALLAH] If the ultimate objective of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Arab potential is to secure peaceful settlement, restore legitimate Palestinian rights, and establish an independent Palestinian state, do you feel that the disengagement decision will speed up or delay the achievement of this objective?

[Abu 'Awdah] Certainly the disengagement decision is an achievement in the interest of the Palestinian struggle embodied by the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, the decision is an expediting factor in achieving Palestinian national objectives—not a retarding or delaying factor.

[AL-MAJALLAH] After the announcement of the decision there has been a general feeling of bitterness and pain, especially as relations and interests between Jordanian and Palestinian people—who have intermingled for many years—have created conditions making the two people as one people. In light of this, one asks: Was it not possible to avoid the disengagement decision?

[Abu 'Awdah] No, it was not possible to avoid the decision, since the aim was to achieve the objectives for which the decision was issued, namely, express Palestinian identity and national character and establish an independent state on Palestinian national soil. The reason is that the Israeli-U.S. game is based on the delusion that Jordan can be an alternative for the Palestinians or a channel for their political expression. Although Jordan explained its position in this regard, via the six-point document that King Husayn handed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz—the document that stipulates that Jordan will not represent the Palestinians, nor be a substitute for them—both the U.S. and Israeli position have remained the same. They are still banking on Jordan as an alternative negotiator for the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some say it was some major mysterious international political arrangements that pushed matters to the point they have now reached—that is, the disengagement decision—and that the results of such arrangements will emerge after the next Israeli and U.S. elections are held and will be in the interest of peace in the Middle East region. What is your opinion?

[Abu 'Awdah] This is erroneous thinking on the part of some who constantly believe that there is a "kind of conspiracy" behind every step or decision taken. With regard to the disengagement decision, it is certainly not part of an international arrangement or a mysterious conspiracy. It is a clear decision preceded by lengthy arrangements and extensive contacts. Despite all this it came as a surprise to most Arab and international parties. Until the scrapping of the Jordanian development plan in the occupied territories, that is, 2 days before that disengagement decision was announced, no one knew or expected such a decision. But all the parties were aware of what was happening immediately after the development plan was scrapped. King Husayn sent messages to world leaders, especially those of the five major countries, the EEC, and Japan, with a review of what had happened and urged these states to extend all possible support to the Palestinian people, especially since they now face major burdens and responsibilities and need help in shouldering them.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Will the disengagement decision affect Jordan's role in peace efforts in the region, especially since this role has always been central, vital, and very important?

[Abu 'Awdah] Not at all. This does not mean that Jordan no longer has a role in the peace process. Actually this role will continue as a fundamental and central role, because the conflict in the region is not only a Palestinian-Israeli conflict but an Arab-Israeli conflict as well. Jordan's borders with the Israeli entity are 480 km long. True, the Palestinian problem is the crux of the conflict with Israel. True, Jordan will continue to provide all forms of support to enhance Palestinian struggle at all levels. But it is also true that the Jordanian role in peace efforts in the region is both comprehensive and fundamental and cannot be abandoned or canceled.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you believe that the decision will improve Jordanian-PLO relations, or will it push relations back? And how?

[Abu 'Awdah] Certainly the decision will clarify relations between the two official sides, I mean the Jordanian Government and the PLO. Thus it will open the door for as much cooperation as possible, especially in the political field, in the interest of the Palestinian cause. I expect such cooperation to be more useful than before since this time it will be devoid of suspicions that Jordan and the PLO are competing over representation for the Palestinian people—a suspicion that has always affected cooperation between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Al-Khasawinah Interviewed on Palestinian Issue

NC2108071588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2146 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah stated that Jordan will not substitute for the PLO in solving the Palestinian issue, and it will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with the AL-AHRAM newspaper to be published Sunday, Dr al-Khasawinah said that both Jordan and the Palestinians want an international conference to resolve the issue. He added: We encourage international efforts and U.S.-Soviet dialogue to convene an effective international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the PLO in order to attain a comprehensive peace settlement. The Jordanian information minister declared that his country is a principal party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and will attend the international conference as an independent party. He added that Jordan will leave the question of Palestinian representation at the conference to the PLO. He said: If the PLO wants to participate in the conference within a joint Arab delegation, we will bless this. We completely support, however, an independent Palestinian delegation. He

noted that when the a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was proposed, Jordan did not say it would include Palestinian individuals, but representatives named by the PLO.

Commenting on recent Jordanian decisions to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, the Jordanian information minister asserted that when the Palestinian brothers were informed of the objectives of these decisions, they deeply appreciated them. Al-Khasawinah said that according to these decisions, the development plan that the brothers in the PLO used to complain of was abolished. Also, the affairs of the employees who symbolized the continuance of a political institution, indicating that Jordan still had ambitions of annexing the West Bank, were dealt with by retiring the employees, with the exception of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and awqaf workers. The House of Representatives which used to have 30 Palestinian deputies from the West Bank was also dissolved, he said. The joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Supporting Steadfastness in the Occupied Territories will still function, however, under new arrangements, he said. Its membership will be restricted to one Jordanian minister instead of three, and one member of the PLO Executive Committee. He remarked that only Saudi Arabia has honored the commitments undertaken by the Arab countries at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit.

Referring to recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman, in which he participated as a member of the Jordanian delegation, Dr al-Khasawinah said that King Husayn had affirmed to the Palestinian brothers that Jordan blesses any direction they wish to take. He added: The Palestinian delegation informed us that they were thinking of establishing a Palestinian state and a provisional Palestinian government. They had not reached a final decision yet, however, and the issue is still being studied so that their decision will be acceptable to the international community—particularly to influential parties.

The Jordanian information minister explained the term "internationally acceptable" by saying that if the Palestinians want to establish a state that will be recognized by Arab and Islamic countries and the states of the Nonaligned Movement, then that is guaranteed. What is intended, however, is that the Americans and Europeans do not balk at recognizing the state and government in the event they are proclaimed, and that no one will use as a pretext that that government's measures are impractical. He noted that the Palestinians agree with Jordan on this point. He asserted that if the Palestinians proclaim a government of liberation of all Palestine "from the river to the sea" according to the Palestinian National Charter, it will not be recognized by anyone, even their Soviet friends. He added that the Palestinians have experienced political, constitutional, and legal istitutions that are studying this matter carefully.

The information minister remarked that when his country adopted its recent decisions, it did not give any thought to the effect they might have on the Shultz initiative. He expressed belief that the decisions did not have any effect on any peace initiative, and asserted that it was Israeli rejection that obstructed the Shultz initiative. He noted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's comment on the initiative was "that he did not accept anything in the initiative except the name Shultz." The Jordanian minister affirmed that his country believes the United States rose to the level of its policy's responsibility for the region's peace and security when it promised that it would twist Israel's arm if it rejected the U.S. initiative. What happened, however, was that Israel rejected the initiative and the United States hastened to sign a strategic agreement with it, he said, and we did not see any form of pressure being exerted on Israel. Al-Khasawinah expressed hope that the United States will play its role as a basic party in seeking to achieve peace in the region. He asserted that recent Jordanian decisions bolster the U.S. peace initiative.

Al-Majali Affirms No Changes in Bridge Security

JN2108100388 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Aug 88 p 6

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Excerpts] Amman—Staff General Eng 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, Public Security chief, said the security situation in Jordan is reassuring and good. [passage ommitted] Replying to a question on the cancellation of the role of the bridge security department and measures of issuing permits to citizens, Staff Gen al-Majali denied that there was any intention to cancel the bridge security department. He added that this department will continue its work as usual and will implement all government-issued instructions. He said that for the time being there was nothing new. When any order is issued, it will be announced. He added that any rumor on this issue is not true at all. [passage omitted]

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Cited on Hostages

NC2208183088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah [religious] guide in Ba'labakk, has urged the kidnappers of foreign hostages in Lebanon to adhere to their demands, even if death becomes the fate of them all. He said a retreat from these demands would constitute a defeat for the kidnappers.

Hizballah's Al-Musawi Comments on Col Higgins

NC2308091588 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Aug 88 p 21

[Text] Western Al-Biqa', Sa'id al-Mu'allawi—At a meeting on 29 August 1987 [date as published], the UN Security Council condemned the kidnapping of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins while he was on his way from Tyre to his work in Al-Naqurah last February. Higgins headed a UN observer group in southern Lebanon. The Security Council called for the immediate release of all hostages everywhere, by whoever held them. It also condemned all acts of kidnapping and hostage taking, without referring to the group holding Higgins, and urged all UN member states to use their influence and all the means at their disposal to ensure the implementation of the decision.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar told reporters, 24 hours prior to the adoption of the resolution, that he had raised the issue of Higgins' release with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The minister has been notified of my request and will convey it to his government, Perez de Cuellar said.

On this subject, and other local and regional issues, AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI interviewed Scholar 'Abbas al-Musawi, one of Hizballah's most prominent leaders in Lebanon, while he was inspecting Islamic resistance positions in western Al-Biqa' last week.

On the UN Security Council decision, Al-Musawi said:

I will comment on this decision in two stages. The first has to do with the source of that decision; namely, the UN Security Council. In our view, and in the view of all the oppressed in this world, the Security Council is party to issues like that of Higgins, or any subject connected to the confrontation of the Israeli enemy, American bases, or the American presence in the region. It is a party to all such matters, particularly those related to the United States. This is because the issue is connected to American spying tools and to the mujahidin and the Muslims in southern Lebanon.

Therefore, it is only to be expected that the Security Council, which is known for its bias toward America and world arrogance, would take such a stand. It would have been more appropriate for the Security Council, which is witness to the continuous Israeli aggression against Lebanon, particularly in the South and in western Al-Biqa', to record, just once, a real and practical condemnation of Israel's air-, land-, and sea-based attacks on Lebanon.

In this context, we regard this decision as part of the schemes engineered against Muslims and mujahidin in the South by the arrogant circles, of which the Security Council is one.

The second stage, Al-Musawi added, is that when he was arrested by the oppressed Muslims in southern Lebanon, Higgins was not on a humanitarian mission. As U.S. sources, political or otherwise, have themselves admitted, Higgins had been spying on Hizballah in the South. THE WASHINGTON POST has admitted that U.S. President Reagan has made a remark to the effect that Higgins has highly important intelligence information and that he is obstinate and will not make any confession or release information which harms U.S. interests.

As a matter of fact, judging by the city which Higgins used to visit, namely Tyre, and the officials whom he used to meet there, we, as Muslims and the oppressed in this country, realized that a plot was being hatched against southern Lebanon. The recent events in the South during which the "Islamic resistance" was disarmed and hundreds of Muslim strugglers were imprisoned are proof of the existence of this plot.

Al-Musawi added: Hence, we understood that Higgins' presence represented a serious plot against our struggle in southern Lebanon. Therefore, it was natural for the zealous ones of this country to confront this plot and arrest its tools. We believe that the arrest of this agent by the sons of this nation is part of this nation's defense of its dignity, honor, and existence. Consequently, in view of the nature of the mission of this U.S. agent, we denounce and censure the UN Security Council, which finds it acceptable to give agents a free hand to confront our people and attack their dignity in the name of the Security Council. We have the right to say that Higgins' presence in southern Lebanon under the aegis and in the name of the Security Council was part of this arrogant circle's fight against our oppressed people in southern Lebanon.

Asked if Hizballah would help to bring about the release of foreign hostages if the Islamic Republic of Iran or others asked it to do so, Al-Musawi said: It is a fact that we have not interfered in such matters in the past and we will not do so now. It is possible that such a request may be made to other parties, but we are not concerned with this subject.

On the situation in the Jazzin area, Al-Musawi said: Israel has held on to this area as a hostage. The situation there is different from that in the occupied border area.

Israel uses Jazzin as an instrument of pressure whenever it wants and wherever it wants, as a gateway for a new sweep toward Sidon, for example, or to apply pressure in the presidential elections.

On the exchange of prisoners between the "Islamic resistance" and the "South Lebanese Army," Al-Musawi stated: The exchange of prisoners and bodies between us and the border militia takes place without any fanfare. We still have 3 militia prisoners, while there are 7 strugglers in Al-Khiyam Prison and other detention camps, as well as 90 bodies. On the question of the exchange of the two Israeli prisoners held by Hizballah, he said: There are no contacts with the enemy on this subject.

Meeting Said To Mark U.S. Backing for Iddih

PM2208160188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Official Met With Iddih in Paris"]

[Excerpts] London, exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic circles concerned with Middle Eastern affairs in London have said that the first round of the Lebanese presidential elections has furnished irrefutable evidence of how the Lebanese crisis is linked to regional conflicts on the one hand and is influenced by new changes in the balance of power after the end of the Iraq-Iran war on the other. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources in London doubt Damascus' ability to secure the quorum required if it continues backing the nomination of former President Sulayman Franjiyah.

As for Israel, which did not back a particular candidate, it will be even less able to secure the number of deputies required to back a candidate supporting its policy in Lebanon. Thus, it will be prompted to confine its efforts to trying to prevent the election of a candidate supportive of Damascus' policy. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the United States, and Israel before it, must be aware of the effects of the Gulf war and the increase in Iraq's influence in the region and, consequently, in Lebanon. Perhaps Washington, which is adversely affected by the strong emergence of Iraq, will try to put a limit on Iraq's influence by backing Syria, but without harming Israel. Thus, some observers in London do not rule out the possibility that Washington could back a candidate leaning slightly toward Syria in order to help it resist Iraq and its allies in the Lebanese arena. [passage omitted]

Probably the most striking element in terms of U.S. maneuvers was the arrival in Paris around 2 weeks ago of a State Department senior official and his meeting with [Lebanese National Bloc leader] Raymond Iddih, away from the limelight and in complete secrecy.

Although Iddih denies the meeting and does not admit the contacts, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT confirms that the meeting was held in response to a request from the American official. An informed source close to Iddih interpreted the meeting as proof of the U.S. opening up to Iddih after a long estrangement. This was after the Americans sensed the extent of the power which the National Bloc leader enjoys within popular, Islamic, and Christian circles. The source confirmed that the meeting did not produce tangible results. But, the source expressed cautious optimism about the possibility of a positive development occurring in the U.S. and Syrian stands toward Iddih.

Iddih Discusses Presidency

PM2308091288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 88 p 2

['Ali Nun and Ghassan Shirbil reports: "Al-Jumayyil Might Send Envoy to Damascus"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, London—Raymond Iddih [Lebanese National Bloc leader] told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that he will announce tomorrow whether or not he will be a candidate in the Lebanese presidential elections scheduled for the day after tomorrow. He said in a telephone conversation that the Lebanese Constitution does not make advance announcement of candidacy for the Presidency a precondition, unlike nominations for the Chamber of Deputies. Deputies can elect someone president without his announcing his candidacy, but courtesy to my fellow deputies dictates that I give them prior notification of my decision. He gave himself a 50-50 chance of candidacy.

Iddih, who denied having held any direct contacts with any U.S. or Syrian officials regarding the presidential battle, reiterated the preconditions he made a long time ago for returning to Lebanon in the event of his election.

He said: If elected president of the Republic I would visit the capitals of the five big powers and ask them to implement Security Council Resolution 425 calling for Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory and for the deployment of UN emergency forces in the area from the Al-Litani River down to Lebanon's southern international borders. If that happens—and it does not really require more than 20 days—then I would return to my country. If not, then I would apologize to the Chamber of Deputies and thank it for its confidence in me and I would then decline the post because I cannot be the head of an occupied state. The Chamber would then reconvene to elect a new president. There should, constitutionally, be enought time for that before 23 September.

Leader Iddih believes the United States can force Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon within just 3 days and to implement Security Council Resolutions 425, 426, and 509 in this connection.

He also said: As regards the Syrian presence, I have, from the very beginning, drawn a distinction between the Israeli occupation and the Syrian presence in Lebanon because there is a vast difference between the two. Israel is an enemy. An armistice agreement was concluded with it after a state of war. In other words, the war ended but not with peace. We have no armistice agreement with Syria because there was no war with Syria and no Security Council resolutions against it. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, according to informed sources, President al-Jumayyil yesterday discussed with his advisers the possibility of sending an envoy to Damascus in a new attempt to reach understanding with Syria on the name of the next president and to prevent "an atmosphere of possible confrontation" from developing. The sources said they have not heard anything about the possible arrival of a U.S. envoy. It is more likely, they said, that the United States will play an active role in the election of a new president if there is no quorum on Thursday.

'Nationalist,' Islamic Officials To Meet 23 Aug

NC2208162688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] It was learned today that an expanded meeting will be held at the Carlton Hotel at 1100 tomorrow. The meeting will be attended by the leaders of the nationalist and Islamic parties and forces, as well as a number of key political and trade union figures. The participants will study the current situation, which has arisen as a result of the obstruction of the 18 August Chamber session. Highly placed circles have noted that during the meeting an important position, described as historic, will be adopted.

A committee comprising Amal Movement and PSP officials has been formed to contact officials of political parties preparatory to tomorrow's meeting.

Syrians Fortify Military Positions in Ba'labakk

NC2208205288 (Clandestine) Voice of Truth in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] According to security sources in Al-Biqa', the Syrian forces in the area are fortifying their positions inside the city of Ba'labakk and at its approaches. The sources told the Beirut-based ARAB WORLD weekly that the Syrians are setting up military fortifications around Hizballah's Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks. The fortifications are being set up simultaneously with consultations with Hizballah to vacate the barracks and hand them over to the Lebanese Army. These consultations are being carried out by Colonel Ibrahim Shahin, commander of the Army's 1st Brigade, for the Lebanese side and by senior officials for the Syrian side.

Hizballah refuses to hand over the barracks before Damascus and Tehran hold consultations in this regard.

Amal-Palestinian Fighting in Sidon Area

NC2208141388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Tension prevails along the combat lines east of Sidon in the wake of intermittent fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen today.

In another development, the Beirut-based ARAB WORLD weekly magazine has reported that the Syrian forces have asked the eight Palestinian organizations which did not take part in the fighting in Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila, not to turn the Mar Ilyas camp into a military zone. The Syrian Command told the organizations that they should withdraw all kinds of weapons from the camp.

Popular Liberation Army, 'Agent' Militias Clash

NC2208114788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Extreme tension continues to prevail on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines following fierce clashes last night between personnel manning positions of the Popular Liberation Army-Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces and the agent militias. Meanwhile, Israeli combat aircraft have flown over the Sidon area and the nearby camps, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Lahd Position in Al-Rayhan Area Shelled

NC2308100588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A national resistance group shelled an agent Lahd militia position in the Al-Rayhan area at dawn today. Some three rockets fell on the position, causing a number of casualties. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over Sidon and the nearby camps at 0830 today.

Ba'th Leaders Conclude Meetings on Developments
JN1808171088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The comrades secretaries of Ba'th Party branches, governors, heads of popular organizations and unions, and presidents of universities last night concluded their last round of talks under the chairmanship of Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The meeting lasted 2 days and was attended by the comrades People's Assembly speaker, prime minister, members of the Regional Command, and other ministers.

In the concluding session, the prime minister delivered a speech affirming the government's interest in all the proposed issues and its attempt to achieve all it can within the limits of the available local resources. He referred to government efforts to push forward the process of growth and development to realize the demands of the quick progress witnessed by our country under the leadership of the Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He affirmed the soundness of the national economy, the practical steps, and the great development achieved as a result of the measures and policies followed by the government to push this economy forward and root its infra-structure, which included the various industrial, agricultural, and services sectors.

Comrade al-Zu'bi mentioned a number of projects that have been completed, are still in progress, or are being planned for the future. These are in the field of improving land, building dams, and providing the requirements for agricultural products, or in the field of turning the industrial wheel, stabilizing the situation of several factories, and pushing production to the level agreed upon in the plan.

The comrade prime minister clarified the government's policies in implementing the motto of self-reliance. He referred to achievements in this direction in the various fields, which increased and developed production in quality and quantity. He affirmed the necessity of continuing efforts to realize the development plans to build the socialist and progressive society with a sense of responsibility, high spirits, and adherence to the decisions of the party conferences and the directions of the comrade secretary general of the party and president of the Republic. He added that we should continue to apply punish those who fail and damage, reward those who create and excel, and encourage individual initiative. He lauded the principle of the sovereignty of the law, working toward applying it, and punishing those who do not abide by it.

The prime minister concluded his speech by affirming the firm and principled stands of our country toward the fateful issues of our nation and the continued confrontation of the defeatist and submissive projects and the fierce Zionist and imperialist aggression to which our country and nation are being subjected. These aggressions aim to impose submission and liquidatory projects on the Arab nation under the leadership of the Comrade Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Comrade Assistant Regional Secretary Sulayman Qaddah affirmed at the end of the meetings the special importance of the discussions and the necessity of programming the instructions and directions that were achieved during the round. He also affirmed the need to follow up their application with the available resources and capacities in a way which will give our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the chance to continue and enrich its struggling march to achieve the aims of the nation and the expectations of the masses.

He called on the comrades present to increase their efforts and donations and elevate their sense of pan-Arab and national responsibilities in order to develop the organizational structure of the party, grasp the ground rules of the popular masses and the unions, exploit their capabilities, and strengthen our national unity under the leadership of our great party and its Secretary General Hafiz al-Asad.

People's Assembly Speaker Leaves for Beijing
JN1908093888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah left for Beijing this morning heading a parliamentary delegation on a 10-day official visit to the PRC. During the visit, Qaddurah will hold parliamentary talks and meetings with senior Chinese officials.

Qaddurah made a statement to a SANA correspondent lauding relations between the two friendly countries, describing them as old relations. He pointed out that the visit is to consolidate and promote friendship and relations between the two countries in the interest of both friendly peoples, particularly on the parliamentary level.

Afghanistan

'Normalization' of Ties With Pakistan Sought

LD2208085488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 22 Aug 88

["How Would Be Pakistan After Zia's Death?"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, August 21, BAKHTAR—With the death of General Ziaul Haq this question comes to the centre of attention of most political observers in the region and the world. General Ziaul Haq who had placed Pakistan in an inappropriate situation vis-a-vis its neighbours, Afghanistan and India, no longer exists. Now, the crucial point is that what political policy will be followed by the forthcoming leaders of Pakistan to be conforming to the national interests of that country and to be acceptable to its neighbours.

The political circles and the Pakistani people are awaiting for the democratic foundations to come out in the life of Pakistan. Elections be held with the participation of parties and to take the hands of military people off the political life. [sentence as received] For example, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, Marshal Asghar Khan, Mohammad Khan Junejo, former prime minister, Mawlana Fazl Rahman, Ghulam Ahmad Blaur, Ghaus Bux Bizenjo, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and others have called for the restoration of stability and democracy in Pakistan.

The public opinion of the region has been directed, right at a time when the mourning days are not yet ended in Pakistan, to the future stand of Pakistan vis-a-vis the situation in the region and its relations with its neighbours.

The political and social circles in Afghanistan like all the other people of the region are concerned about the situation of Pakistan in Asian Continent and its foreign policy. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his message, has expressed the wishes of Afghanistan for the normalisation of relations of Pakistan with the Republic of Afghanistan and the realisation of Geneva agreements in the national interests of the both countries.

Afghanistan is naturally wishing the normalisation of its relations with Pakistan which is conforming to the will of Pakistani people at a time when the consistent violations of Geneva agreements will bring about negative consequences towards the stability of the situation in the region and is even jeopardising the national interests of Pakistan.

Sajid Razawi, a Pakistani reporter in London in an interview to BBC expressed his hope that Pakistan's problems are so acute that if Pakistan's behaviour vis-a-vis Afghanistan becomes tougher it will become dangerous for Pakistan and he hoped that the new heads of Pakistan will make their attitude a little milder.

The loyalty of Pakistan to international treaties and the realistic assessment of the position of that country in the region is what the people of Pakistan desire. The continuation of the policy of General Ziaul Haq who, according to Partilfar [name as received], AGENCE-FRANCE PRESS correspondent, was not going to hide his dissatisfaction over the Geneva agreements, can not be in the national interest of Pakistan. The new tendencies which have come about in the region by signing the Geneva agreements and the beginning of cease- fire in the Iran-Iraq war obliges the allies of Pakistan including the United States to review their tension oriented policies.

The observers are stressing that Pakistan will take advantage of selecting a path which will not be leading to the intensification of regional problems. If Ziaul Haq's death results in melting the ice in relations with its neighbours the people of the region will be benefitting of it.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan who is care-taker of the Pakistan's Presidency has recently pointed out that his government will be striving to convince mujahidin to agree for a government with broad basis but it is clear that Pakistan does not want to interfere into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to impose a government of its liking in Kabul.

It is not accidental that the extremist leaders in Peshawar are much worried as if Ziaul Haq has taken the stars of their luck with him.

Anyway, Pakistan's preparedness for the implementation of the provisions of Geneva agreements is enjoying a special significance at a time when the people of Afghanistan want peace to prevail in their ancient land and foreign interventions be ended.

With the termination of General Ziaul Haq's rule in Pakistan where its people are loyal to peace aspirations and want to keep good relations with its neighbours, the need for sound wisdom is manifesting with more power in Pakistan.

Rebel Attacks Increase After Ziaul Haq's Death

BK2208125088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP)—Afghan rebels destroyed five helicopters at Kabul airport as they intensified attacks across Afghanistan after the death of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, resistance sources said here Monday.

The sources said the mujahidin had stepped up attacks after General Ziaul Haq's death Wednesday in a suspicious plane crash in eastern Pakistan.

Rebels under top commander 'Abdul Haq fired a barrage of rockets at the capital's airport Thursday, blowing up four helicopters on the runway. Another helicopter was

destroyed in a rocket attack on the weekend, the sources said. Rockets also slammed Kabul's Microrayon area, but details were not available, they said.

Mujahidin rebels also killed or wounded dozens of Afghan Government soldiers in attacks Thursday at Qarghah, west of Kabul, the sources said.

In the eastern Province of Paktia, rebels shot down a military transport plane Thursday killing all aboard, the sources said.

Heavy fighting was reported in eastern Nangarhar Province where the mujahidin have inflicted heavy losses on government troops, they said.

Rebels also shot down a military helicopter in southern Qandahar Province Saturday, the sources said. They added that rebels had killed some 40 Afghan troops in various parts of Qandahar Province in the past week.

Rebel sources said Sunday that rebels on Saturday captured the important town of Baba Vali Saheb only five kilometres (three miles) from Qandahar city.

Sources Name Rebel Behind Kelagay Attack

BK2208094988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP)—The deadliest military operation—believed to have resulted in as many as 800 deaths—of the Afghan war was carried out by a little-known commander who only has about 40 men under his orders, diplomatic and rebel sources here said Monday.

They said the August 11 missile attack on Kelagay base in which 700 to 800 people, about 100 of them civilians, were killed was led by Mohibullah, an obscure military leader of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami faction of the mujahidin resistance.

The casualties came when eight rebel rockets slammed into the base's fuel and munitions depots, with about 40 lodgings used by Soviet troops razed and more than 200 tanks and military vehicles destroyed in the resulting fire and explosions, the sources said.

The amount of materiel destroyed at the base, about 150 kilometers (95 miles) north of Kabul, was "enormous," the sources said.

Kelagay, the first major Soviet base built in Afghanistan, sheltered a two-year supply of oil and ammunition, mostly for the Afghan Army, diplomats said.

Diplomats in Kabul said nearly 1,000 Soviet military personnel and dependants lived on the base.

Over 100 Soviets Said Killed

BK2308115488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 23 (AFP)—More than 100 Soviet soldiers were among an estimated 800 people killed in an ammunition dump blast in northern Afghanistan earlier this month, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

At least 109 Soviet soldiers were killed when Afghan rebel rockets set off an inferno at a major Soviet ammunition and fuel depot at Kelagay in Baghlan Province on August 10, Western diplomats said.

The blast, seen as the most damaging military operation of the Afghan war, also destroyed eight helicopters and some fuel stocks, sources said.

Some diplomats had said between 600 and 800 mostly Soviet civilians and soldiers died in the explosion.

A spokesman for the rebel group that carried out the bombing said Monday that 598 troops and 112 civilians, most of them Soviet, had been killed and 284 people had been injured.

The facility was a principal ammunition storage site for the Soviet 40th Army, diplomats said. Located 150 kilometers (100 miles) north of Kabul, it was the first base the Soviets built after they invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

Some troops lived with their families at the base, located in a scenic mountain area, the sources said.

Most of the Soviet troops were from Red Army contingents withdrawn from northern Konduz Province only two days before the bombing.

According to resistance sources, the blast was engineered by a minor rebel commander, Mohibullah, of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghan rebels faction led by Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Mohibullah, 30, had only about 40 men under his command operating from the Konduz Mountains overlooking the sprawling facility, Mr. Khalili [not further identified] said.

Diplomats said only one or two of the eight rockets fired by the rebels hit their target. Mr. Khalili said material losses were "very heavy."

Fuel storage tanks, ammunition, light and heavy weapons, bombs, clothing and tonnes of food and rations for the troops were wiped out. Fires raged for two days, triggering secondary explosions that sent projectiles flying, he said.

At least 113 tanks and armoured vehicles as well as more than 100 trucks and jeeps were incinerated, he said.

The base, on the road linking the Afghan capital of Kabul to the Soviet Union, contained enough supplies to last the Soviet forces and the Afghan Army for two years, diplomats said.

The diplomats, quoting multiple sources, said Soviet forces returned to help the Afghan Government fight for Konduz city, captured by rebels on August 10 two days after Soviet troops were withdrawn. The Soviets have denied the claim.

Soviet aircraft based in the Soviet Union have conducted raids on the city daily, diplomats and state-run Radio Kabul have said.

Official Afghan television claimed government control had been restored but inadvertently showed film footage taken by helicopter that confirmed Soviet involvement, witnesses said.

The rebels downed a Soviet AN-32 plane killing all 39 aboard, diplomats said.

The broadcast said government troops suffered 200 casualties while the diplomats, quoting Afghan sources, put Kabul's losses as high as 800 dead. The official media claimed the rebels lost 265 men.

Correspondent Describes Konduz Destruction
LD2208221388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Our compatriots know that criminal extremists recently tried to bring Konduz and the area around it under pressure. They used light and heavy arms to disrupt peace and security in the city through destruction, arson, looting of public property, and the murder of our compatriots—including women, children, the elderly, clergy, and ulema. A BAKHTAR reporter gives his eyewitness account:

Some time ago, warmongers savagely attacked Konduz, killing a number of our compatriots and looting private and public property. The criminals, who were backed by Pakistani, Arab, and Western advisers, plundered and then set on fire 150 shops belonging to our compatriots. They set fire to schools and day care centers where poor children and dependents of the revolution's martyrs are taught. Sher Khan High School, the High School for Girls, and the Watan Day Care Center were among them.

Criminal extremists, in the name of holy war and under the veil of Islam, embarked on fiendish acts. They even attacked sacred places, burning many volumes of the Holy Koran. The destruction of the Kashani Grand Mosque by these criminals attests to their methods. The extremists looted banks of 1 billion afghanis and then set the banks on fire. They also plundered a large amount of spare parts from the Spin Zar factories and set the administrative offices on fire.

Armed Forces officials in Konduz defended our people's lives and inflicted crushing blows on the subversive criminal extremists by using effective military tactics with the cooperation of the local people. About 600 criminals, including group commanders Hanif, Nasir, 'Abdallah, Mir Alam, Asef, and Latif, were killed. A large amount of their arms and ammunition, including rocket launchers, recoilless guns, and machineguns, were destroyed. Many of their hideouts were also destroyed.

Our Armed Forces officials, the guardians of peace, were praised for their heroism and self-sacrifices in ensuring peace and security for the people of Konduz by Esteemed President Najibullah, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Many of them have been promoted and decorated with medals and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Life in Konduz has returned to normal now that the warmongers have been crushed. Hundreds of families who fled to remote villages have now returned and are resuming a peaceful life. The residents of Konduz closely cooperated with the Armed Forces and state organs. So far, they have brought back thousands of tonnes of consumer goods and food to the city from the criminal extremists' hideouts. The process continues. The residents of Konduz have offered their overwhelming cooperation to state organs to restore peace and repair the damage. The residents of Konduz have held meetings and processions to express their great abhorrence of these crimes. They expressed their readiness to cooperate with state organs and the Armed Forces in order to ensure peace and security in the province.

Rebel 'Ringleader' Zarif Killed in Paktia
LD2008222388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] A number of extremists belonging to the Gulbuddin band disrupted the peaceful life of Gardeyz people by firing surface-to-surface missiles near Zarrin Kheyl, Seyyed Karam District, Paktia. The extremists were crushed recently by the security forces with the cooperation of the people.

As a result of this mopping-up operation, 5 extremists, including their ringleader Zarif, were crushed and 14 others seriously injured. During this mopping-up operation, a missile launching system and missiles were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of a mopping-up operation in areas around Hazrat-e Soltan District, Samangan Province, an extremist group was crushed by the security forces. During this operation five extremists were killed and a number were injured. A number of arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Operations Against 'Extremists' Detailed
LD2108180788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The country's Armed Forces, continuing their activities to ensure peace and tranquillity in the country, recently crushed four extremist groups that planned to disrupt peace and tranquillity in the vicinity of Konarha, Paktia, Nangarhar, and Qandahar Provinces.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that a 6-man group that wanted to disrupt peace and tranquillity by crossing the border in the areas around Shin Kowrak, Konarha Province, was crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces. During this operation, four heavy weapons and several enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report from Qandahar Province, a professional criminal group belonging to the extremist bands that were disrupting the peaceful life of the people by firing heavy weapons, was crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces. During this operation, a number of the extremists were crushed, and five heavy weapons and an enemy arms and ammunition depot were destroyed.

According to another report from Paktia Province, a number of extremist elements that were disrupting peace and security by firing heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas in the vicinity of Seyyed Karam District and the city of Gardeyz, were crushed yesterday as a result of blows by the Armed Forces. In the course of this successful combat operation, Wali Khan, a ringleader of the extremist bands, was crushed together with two of his assistants. A surface-to-surface missile launcher was destroyed.

Another report from Nangarhar Province states that another group of criminal extremists was crushed in the area around [words indistinct] region, Chaprahar Subdistrict. In the course of this operation a surface-to- surface missile launcher and several of the enemy's light weapons also were destroyed. The BAKHTAR military section adds that the local people in these areas took part in these operations alongside the Armed Forces.

According to another report, a group of warmongering extremists engaged in dstructive activities and plundering the people's property in areas around Shakar Darreh District was crushed recently by the country's Armed Forces.

According to a BAKHTAR military section report, two extremists were killed and [name indistinct], a ringleader of the Gulbuddin extremist group, was seriously injured as a result of blows by the Armed Forces. In addition, two rocket launchers, a DShK, five Kalashinikovs, and an enemy arms and ammunition hideout were completely destroyed.

'Rebels' Fire Rockets at Jalalabad Residences
LD2208150288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Today, the religious day of 'Ashura, the criminal extremist elements fired heavy weapons against residential areas of Jalalabad.

According to the BIA military section, this morning extremist elements fired 12 surface-to-surface missiles on residential areas of Jalalabad city. As a result of this satanic action, one of our compatriots was martyred and two others injured. Also, a house of a Jalalabad city resident was destroyed.

'Extremists' Crushed in Qandahar, Laghman Areas
LD2208162088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] As a result of Armed Forces' crushing blows, another group of the extremist elements was crushed yesterday in the vicinity of Arghandab District, Qandahar Province. According to a BAKHTAR military section report, as a result of this activity heavy damage was inflicted on the extremist elements, and 18 of their heavy weapons were destroyed.

An extremist group that planned to shell the city of Mehtarlam, Laghman Province, in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people was crushed today. According to a BAKHTAR military section report, the country's Armed Forces, with the direct cooperation and assistance of the local people, foiled the sinister plan. As a result, one of the extremists was killed and another three seriously injured. Also as a result of this Armed Forces activity, a surface-to-surface missile launcher belonging to the extremist elements also was destroyed along with many of its shells.

As result of recent clashes between extremist groups in vicinity of Golbahar and Jabal os Saraj Districts and the city of Charikar, in Parvan Province, a total of 18 persons from both sides were killed. As a result of armed clashes that took place among the Gulbuddin armed groups in the areas around (Chamtal) District and (Sholgara) District, in Balkh Province, a total of 21 people were killed and 15 others badly injured.

Mujahidin Attack Military Convoy in Baghlan
BK2208063488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin attacked a fuel-carrying military convoy, north of the Salang Tunnel in Baghlan Province, destroying 10 vehicles. In another attack in (Khujdar wa Luswali) area of Parvan Province, the mujahidin killed 65 Kabul soldiers. (?Four) Kabul regime soldiers stationed at Bagram Air Force Base joined the mujahidin.

India

Gandhi Visits Earthquake Areas in Bihar

BK2208163088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister today visited some of the worst affected areas in Darbhanga, Madhubani, and Monghyr Districts of Bihar to personally assess the situation in the aftermath of the earthquake. He visited the Darbhanga College Hospital to enquire about the condition of the injured people. He consoled the tragedy-stricken people and assured them all help. He went to madrasa [Muslim school] at Qilla Ghat in Darbhanga where eight children were killed.

He ordered the district officials to render immediate and all possible assistance to the affected people. He announced 30 lakh rupees from the prime minister's relief fund for the quake-hit people. He also announced a grant of 10,000 rupees to the family of each killed. The prime minister was accompanied by some central ministers, the Bihar chief minister, and top officials.

Massive relief and rescue operations are continuing in the affected areas with the deployment of the Army. Voluntary organizations are also helping. Medical teams have fanned out to the affected areas to attend to the distressed people. Several state governments have announced cash relief amounting to lakhs of rupees to help the quake-affected people. These include Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, West Bengal, and Karnataka. Several political parties, industrialists, and film personalities have also offered donations for the relief operations.

Five Army columns are now deployed in the affected areas. A Defense Ministry spokesman said the Air Force and the Navy are standing by. One Army unit was airlifted to Darbhanga today. The Indian Red Cross has already dispatched three medical teams to Monghyr, Madhubani, and Darbhanga Districts. Seven more teams are ready to go. Besides medicines the Red Cross is also rushing rice, edible oil, clothing, and tents to Bihar. The crisis management group comprising representative from various central ministries met in New Delhi today to review the progress in the restoration of the public utility services in the affected areas. Medicines and other essential items are being rushed.

The [death] toll is gradually going up with the recovery of more bodies in the rescue operations. The toll may cross 400 with half of them dying in Darbhanga and Madhubani Districts. However, official sources put the death toll at 200. With the communication links snapped, the authorities are not in a position to give the exact number of the dead.

In neighboring Nepal, the death toll in the earthquake has gone up beyond 450. About 140 people were killed at Dharan in Sunsari District alone. About 20 districts were rocked by the quake in Nepal. Our Kathmandu correspondent says that the death toll is likely to go up further as more and more bodies are being recovered from under the debris and casualty reports are yet to come in from far-flung inaccessible hill areas. Relief and rescue operations have been taken up on a war footing. A team of Indian doctors based in Dharan and Biratnagar have offered their services for relief work.

Death Toll Reaches 850

BK2308043288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Massive rescue and relief operations have been launched in earthquake-hit Bihar and neighboring Nepal. According to agency reports, the death toll in the worst earthquake in the last 5 decades has touched 850 with thousands others injured. The number of persons killed in Bihar is estimated to be 400, while the death figure in Nepal has crossed the 450 mark when last reports came in. The prime minister today visited some of the worst affected areas in Darbhanga, Madhubani, and Monghyr. [passage omitted]

Bihar and Nepal today experienced an aftershock of the earthquake. It measured 5.1 on the Richter scale. The shocks were registered a few minutes past 1700 [1130 GMT] this evening on the seismograph at Delhi.

Defense Minister on IPKF Role in Sri Lanka

BK2008092488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has reiterated that the peacekeeping force will remain in Sri Lanka till the time the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is fully implemented. Talking to newsmen on board the IAF [Indian Air ForceS] aircraft while returning from Kanpur yesterday, Mr Pant said Sri Lanka should remain a single entity where the interests of the Tamils are protected.

Mr Pant said it is imperative to implement the accord for the sake of peace in the region. He said the LTTE is still resorting to violence and hampering the peace process. He urged the militants to come to the negotiating table.

Agreement Signed on Gurkha Citizenship 23 Aug

BK2308092188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] An agreement was signed in New Delhi today between the Center and the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] settling the Gurkha citizenship issue. The agreement says a gazette notification will be issued soon on this. The agreement, signed by the union home secretary, Mr C.G. Somiah, and the GNLF leader, Mr Subash Ghisingh, in the presence of the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, also deals with certain other issues, like a separate Indian Gurkha regiment and inclusion of Gurkha language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

About a separate Indian Gurkha regiment, the GNLF accepted government's position not to raise any new regiment on the basis of class. However, it was clarified that Indian Gurkhas are free to join any regiment of their choice and they are not obliged to join specified Gurkha regiments. Army Headquarters will issue instructions to this effect.

The Center's stand not to include more languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution was also accepted. It was felt that such a move would create repercussions and reactions. The government assured the GNLF of its commitment to develop the cultural and literary heritages of all languages.

The GNLF also agreed to withdraw all agitational activities related to these issues.

Today's agreement follows the tripartite agreement between the Center, the West Bengal government, and the GNLF signed in Calcutta yesterday on the formation of the Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council.

The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told AIR correspondent that the agreements are indicative of the strength of the democratic processes in the country. They show that a vexing problem can be solved through negotiation and mutual confidence.

Mr Ghisingh said the stigma of foreigner will be removed from the original Gurkhas after today's agreement. He said yesterday's settlement has already solved the identity problem of the Gurkhas, and now there will be peace everywhere.

Bill on Misuse of Religious Sites Approved

BK1908105788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Parliament has passed the bill to prevent the misuse of religious institutions for political and other purposes. The bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was voted by the Rajya Sabha today.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

Gurdaspur, Amritsar Shootings

BK2308032488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down seven persons, including members of two families, in separate incidents last night. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists struck in Batala Town and gunned down four persons. Two persons were seriously injured in the attack. The culprits were chased by security forces and three of them were later captured along with arms and ammunition, including a Chinese assault rifle.

In Amritsar District, terrorists shot dead a farmer and his son in village Nawapind under Ramdas Police Station.

13 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK2308091188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down 13 persons, including a Congress-I activist and 5 members of two families, in separate incidents last night. Terrorists shot down three persons at Timuwal village in Amritsar District and gunned down four more in Batala. Two persons were seriously injured in the attack. The culprits were chased by the security forces and three of them were later nabbed along with arms and ammunition, including a Chinese assault rifle.

In Amritsar District, the police recovered three bullet-ridden bodies from a canal near village Samajpur and one from village Bhaini Bhadesan.

In Patiala District, terrorists shot dead one woman and a man in two separate incidents.

Curfew Imposed in Srinagar After Violence

BK2308031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an indefinite curfew was imposed in downtown area of Srinagar yesterday as a precautionary measure following a clash between two groups of people. Official sources said in Srinagar the situation is under control.

Federal State for Jews, Palestinians Proposed

BK2108034288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] India has suggested a federal state for Jews and Palestinians with Jerusalem as the common capital. This was conveyed yesterday by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, while addressing a function to observe Jerusalem Day in New Delhi. He said India considers that a more viable forum to negotiate a settlement is the UN-sponsored conference with the participation of the concerned parties including the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The minister's speech was read out in absentia by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Gonsalves. The meeting was chaired by a noted former diplomat, Mr P.N. Haksar. Among others, the Saudi Arabian ambassador, Mr Fu'ad Mufti, and the PLO ambassador in India, Mr (Khalid al-Shaykh), addressed the conference.

Commentary on Nuclear Agreement With Vietnam

BK2208131788 Delhi [illegible]neral Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT [illegible]2 Aug 88

[M.J. Kaul commentary]

[Text] The recent signing of an agreement between India and Vietnam for collaboration toward peaceful use of atomic energy hallmarks India's quest to spread knowledge

of otherwise deadly weapons for the betterment of mankind. It is all the most necessary for developing countries to make such as this cheap source of energy for their development. [sentence as heard] And India, which is the first among the developing nations and seventh in the world to have achieved successful operation of a fast-breeder reactor, can profitably help the nations of the Third World in this sphere of scientific advancement.

Under the agreement, India would be imparting training to Vietnamese scientists in its own nuclear power stations and laboratories. It is an opportune moment for the Vietnamese scientists, as India is already under way to produce 10 percent of its massive 125,400 megwatt power generation by the turn of the century through atomic energy.

What is the energy production scenario from nuclear sources in the world today? About 13 percent of the world's electricity production is being generated by almost 400 nuclear power stations in 26 countries. The figures range from as much as 59 percent for France, 41 percent for Sweden, 14 percent for the United States, to around 3 percent for India. This is not all. The advanced countries are marching toward more and more generation through this unconventional source of energy.

France, which meets over half its power needs through nuclear power, expects to increase it to over 72 percent by [the year] 2001. Even the United States is adding 34 nuclear power stations to its 85 existing nuclear power reactors. The developing countries must realize that they can no longer sit back and watch the situation. They have to get together to extend their helping hand to one another for their development.

The India-Vietnamese agreement has certainly shown the way. A look at India's power generation scene will be appropriate here. At present, it has two types of energy sources—renewable and nonrenewable. The former include solar, wind, geothermal, tidal, ocean, thermal, and hydel [hydroelectric]. The latter is comprised of coal, oil, and gas. Nuclear power is one source which can fit in the description of both the categories, renewable and nonrenewable, depending on how it is viewed. Fast breeders, for instance, yield more fuel than what they consume.

India's experiment with nuclear energy began almost with the dawn of its independence in 1947. Its first prime minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, whom the world acknowledged as the messenger for peace, gave the vital thrust for the use of this source of energy for peaceful purposes; and Dr Homi Bhabha, who is considered to be the father of the country's nuclear power source, maintained that nuclear power in the developing India would be three-tier based. The first phase was to consist of pressurized heavy water reactors using uranium oxide and heavy water as coolant and moderator. In the second phase, fast-breeder reactors would use the plutonium and uranium-233 for thorium. In the third phase, fast-breeder reactors would use uranium-233 to convert thorium, which is nonfission, into uranium-233. [sentence as heard]

In 1969 the first nuclear power station, called Tarapur atomic power station, in western India came on line. Soon enough three more nuclear power stations came on line; two of them are situated in northern India and one in southern India. To exploit the nuclear power on vast commercial lines, India has prudently set a program to invest something like a $100 billion by the year 2000 on the expansion of nuclear power program to supply something like 10,000 megawatt of power through this modern source of energy.

Here one cannot ignore that nuclear power like any other energy source involves certain hazards and risks during every phase of its construction, operation, maintenance, and waste disposal. Several administrative and engineering measures are employed to create what are called multiple safety barriers to provide a high level of protection against release of radiation or radioactive materials.

Refined techniques are evolved and employed to monitor the effectiveness of such barriers in different operational and accident situations to limit the consequent risks to socially acceptable levels. Like all other natural hazards, safety precautions are taken by [words indistinct] in the ongoing atomic energy programs, making it one of the safest industrial programs in the country. With optimistic beginning, backed by clearly outlined safety measures and well-worked-out planning for the remaining part of the 20th century, India can lead the way in Southeast Asia in the field of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Iran

Iraq Reportedly Gives Ultimatum on Attack

LD2308085488 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Iraq has reportedly warned that it will attack Iranian troops today if they do not withdraw to the east of Do-Viraj River in Nahr 'Anbar region in the southern front.

Commander of the Fourth Corps of the Iraqi Army has told United Nations observers in the Iraqi side of the border that in case Iranian troops do not withdraw to the east bank of the Do-Viraj River by 12:30 hours Tuesday, they will be attacked.

Brig. Gen. Kelly, commander of the United Nations Iran- Iraq Military Group (UNIIMOG) forces stationed in Iran, has been told this by his UNIIMOG counterpart in Iraq and relayed it to Iranian officials.

The Iraqi Fourth Corps has reportedly mentioned the specifications of the said region, east of Do-Viraj River in Nahr-e 'Anbar region as follows: 30-94 on ein khosh, 38-86 on cham-sari, and 43-77 on cham-hendi maps.

It is to be recalled that the present concentration of Iranian troops in the above-mentioned region is a line where Iranians had been stationed in before the ceasefire went into effect at 0300 GMT Saturday and therefore the warning by the Iraqi Army is only another violation of the truce.

In a letter to the U.N. chief today, Iran's foreign minister warned against Iraq's intention to attack Iran from the southern front.

Alleged Iraqi Plans Noted

LD2308103188 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Brig. Gen. Asghar Jamali, deputy commander of the ground forces and in charge of the military headquarters for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 provided IRNA with more details on Iraq's intention to launch a military attack on Iran.

He said the military hqs for Resolution 598 had received a message from Iran's southern military hqs at 11:07 hours (07:37 GMT) Tuesday that Iraqi troops were moving towards Iranian troops stationed in the west bank of the Do-Viraj River (in Nahr 'Anbar region) deploying tanks and other mechanised armaments.

Eight minutes later, he said, Iran informed the commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Group (UNIIMOG) Gen. Slavko Jovic who, Jamali said, asked Iranian forces to exercise restraint and not open fire at the Iraqis so that he could settle the matter.

Jamali added that in view of an earlier threat by the Iraqi Fourth Corps that it will attack Iranian forces, "We informed UNIIMOG observers stationed in the southern sector of the battlefront ('Eyn Khvosh and Fakkeh) at 06:30 hours (0300 GMT) this morning and they came to the area to watch possible Iraqi movements."

He added that UNIIMOG forces stationed in Iran contacted their counterparts in Iraq asking them to prevent Iraqi troop advance towards Iran.

Gen. Jamali said Iran had reminded the U.N. observers that lack of proper reaction to Iraq's threat would entail undesirable consequences. The UNIIMOG officials, he said, had again asked for restraint by the Iranian side and promised full investigation into the matter through the U.N. chief and said they would immediately inform Iran of the results.

Iraqi Troops Advance

LD2308105788 Tehran IRNA in English 1054 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—An Iraqi armored brigade, while being watched by U.N. observers, began an advance towards Iranian positions west of the Do-viraj [name as received] River (in Nahr 'Anbar region) in the southern front this morning and stationed behind the embankments of Iranian combatants.

The advance followed a warning by the Fourth Corps of the Iraqi Army earlier today that they would attack Iranian forces if they did not withdraw to the east side of the Do-Viraj River.

Deputy Commander of the Ground Forces Brig. Gen. Ashgar Jamali who is also deputy chief of the military headquarters for implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, disclosed this in an interview with IRNA today.

He said Iranian forces had refrained from opening fire at the Iraqis upon a request by the Iran-based commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Group (UNIIMOG) commander.

Jamali said the Iraqi advance took place despite a promise by UNIIMOG commander that his forces will prevent any movement by the Iraqis who he said have advanced between one to four kms towards Iranian positions.

The Iranian military commander said no shooting had taken place between the two sides, adding that Iran's forces remained in the positions they had taken earlier and blocked further advance by Iraqi forces.

"We are presently holding talks with the UNIIMOG commander to settle the issue," he said.

Iraq claims that Iranian forces have made advances in the area (Do-viraj River) after the ceasefire went into effect at 0300 GMT Saturday but Iran denies the charge.

Release of 70 Disabled Iraqi POW's Planned

LD2108165588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to show its good intentions and its humanitarian attitude toward the Iraqi people, will, unilaterally, release 70 disabled Iraqi POW's, coinciding with the blessed anniversary of the maryrdom of the third shi'a imam, Husayn.

The secretary of the Supreme Defense Council and chairman of the Iraqi POW Commission, while announcing this news stated: The Iraqi POW's are ready to be sent, and when the Red Cross announces it is ready, these POW's will be sent to the Red Cross in order to be delivered to their families.

Khamene'i Pays 'Unexpected' Visit to South
LD2108125088 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 21, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i paid an unexpected visit to a southern axis Saturday, the nearest point to Iraqi troops, to review the latest developments at the borders.

Khamene'i, addressing Muslim combatants, underlined the need for the armed forces to continue to defend Iranian borders during the U.N.-mediated peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

The president also lauded the Army for making great progress in various fields and said today's Army can in no way be compared to the Army eight years ago. He termed the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) as the revolution's 'powerful arms.'

At present, Khamene'i said, all nations in the world have realized the heroic resistance and sacred defence of Iranian people over the past eight years were for the sake of Islam and their independence.

The Islamic revolution is now much more powerful than it was eight years ago from the military, political and economic point of view, Khamene'i concluded.

UN Representative Interviewed on Cease-Fire
NC2008073888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0511 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Telephone report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in London followed by same correspondent's interview with Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in New York: from the "Special Program" on the cease-fire—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Greetings and good morning dear listeners. We are trying to establish contact with the Islamic Republic's representation at the United Nations in New York so that we may speak to the Islamic Republic's representative to the United Nations. However, it is necessary to state a few points beforehand. The first is that after the cease-fire, the second phase of the implementation of Resolution 598 will witness the commencement of tripartite talks in Geneva between high-ranking officials of Iran and Iraq and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. These talks should not, in any way, be considered face-to-face talks between Iran and Iraq.

The other point that should be noted is that these talks were propounded months ago during missions the UN dispatched to Iran and Iraq to discuss the technical aspects of the implementation of Resolution 598 within the framework of the UN secretary general's implementation plan. However, the Iraqi regime suddenly spoke last month about the priority which these talks have over the cease-fire. This stance was a bid to obstruct the resolution, because the UN secretary general's implementation plan had called for a cease-fire as the first step, with the talks to be held in subsequent phases.

I recall that during the important talks which started in New York on 23 July, the Iraqi foreign minister even announced that no cease-fire could be achieved without direct talks. The Iraqi regime invested all of its capital on giving priority to talks over the cease-fire. Of course, Iraq's objective was to eliminate the United Nations, the UN secretary general's plan, and Resolution 598 and, therefore, to eliminate the various natural negative results which this resolution will have for Baghdad. However, two important factors led to the defeat of Iraq's tactic, to Iraq's retreat from its position, and to its acceptance of a cease-fire before talks.

The first and most important element was the united presence of the people at the fronts and the inflicting of heavy blows on the Iraqi forces along the fronts, especially on the Khorramshahr axes, which Iraq undoubtedly intended to reoccupy. The second element was Iran's diplomatic consistency and maturity throughout the talks, which the people supported as evidenced by the historic march on 'Eid-e Ghadir-e Qom, which led to praise from all press and diplomatic circles. This development convinced all the Security Council members, even Baghdad's allies, that Iran was serious with regard to its diplomatic positions and that there was no alternative but to force Baghdad to accept the cease-fire.

I will now interview Mr Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, who is on the other telephone line. Mr Mahallati?

[Mahallati] Greetings.

[Correspondent] With regard to the official cease-fire between Iran and Iraq that took effect 1 hour ago, please round up the views of the UN's diplomatic circles for our listeners.

[Mahallati] in the name of God, the Almighty, the Compassionate. With the commencement of the official cease-fire, diplomatic circles in the United Nations are expressing their great happiness and optimism about the positive outcome of a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution in the region, which has become possible thanks to the successful stand and diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the diplomats have expressed concern about the Iraqi regime's commitment to observe the cease-fire, especially in light of the experience it has in carrying out aggressions and in violating humanitarian and international norms.

These circles wonder whether with this kind of a record, the Iraqi regime will adopt logical behavior on the international level; whether its policy of obstructionism with regard to implementing Resolution 598 and the efforts of the UN secretary general toward a lasting regional peace will continue; and whether Iraq will resort

to new baseless pretexts in order to postpone the implementation of the important articles of the resolution. Of course, I should state that despite these concerns, the UN's diplomatic circles confess that in view of the serious expectation on the part of the international community for an end to the war, any confrontation with Resolution 598 under the present situation would be considered political suicide on the international level, not mere obstinacy.

[Correspondent] Mr Mahallati, the current phase linked to the establishment of the cease-fire, which also involves implementing Resolution 598, involves the talks which are to commence in Geneva on Thursday. Has there been any new development in connection with this?

[Mahallati] It is necessary to explain a point concerning the word negotiations. According to the term used by the UN secretary general himself, we will have a face-to-face talk in Geneva so that the UN secretary general may be informed about the views of both sides on some of the aspects concerning the implementation of Resolution 598 within the framework of Article 4. This does not mean that we will sit down and discuss all the points of the resolution. On the basis of the UN Charter, Resolution 598 is indisputable and should be implemented. Also on this basis the UN secretary general is dutybound to implement this resolution irrespective of the wishes of the warring sides.

In our opinion, the important articles of Resolution 598 cannot be commented on. The UN secretary general has been granted the right to invite both sides to talk only about the resolution's fourth article, and not the topics included in the first to eighth articles. Our talks in Geneva will be precisely within this framework. As for the pivotal issues of the war, as I have stated before, these have been stated in the resolution's other articles and are indisputable. Therefore, the UN secretary general is naturally expected to take the necessary steps toward implementing the resolution's important articles at the same time the official cease-fire commences, and not just to sit down and wait for the Geneva talks to commence.

Among the most important of these articles is the formation of an impartial committee to identify the party responsible for the war. Our other expectation is that immediately after the official cease-fire commences, the two sides will return to the international land and sea borders as demarcated by the 1975 Algiers agreement. In other words, the process of this withdrawal should already have started. This, too, has nothing to do with the Geneva talks. As for the number of prisoners of war and the compensation to be paid for losses incurred during the war, these are independent cases, as are the steps that should be taken to decrease tension in the region through the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

In Geneva we can speak, for example, about steps that can be taken to prevent renewed aggression. At any rate, the philosophy behind the Geneva talks is to allow the UN secretary general to become acquainted with the two sides' views on issues that have not been referred to in the resolution, as well as to complete the phases for the implementation of Resolution 598 so that this resolution can result in a comprehensive solution. This is the philosophy behind our talks in Geneva.

[Correspondent] Mr Mahallati, our listeners will certainly want to know what the repercussions will be if the Geneva talks fail and if the outcome of the talks is not what the secretary general wants.

[Mahallati] As we have recently proved many times, Iran is definitely decisive with regard to its policy of defense. The United Nations and the international community now understand quite clearly that the military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are fully capable of thwarting any kind of aggression. I should state an important point here: The success of our diplomacy both in Geneva and with regard to the implementation of all articles of the resolution will depend upon our decisiveness at the fronts and our strong stand as far as ensuring that our defensive objectives are realized.

[Correspondent] In other words, are you telling the dear combatants at the fronts to be on some sort of an alert?

[Mahallati] I would like to state that there is a definite need for this state of alertness, which is the backbone of our success in the implementation of Resolution 598. There is no doubt about this.

[Correspondent] Mr Mahallati, I would like to thank you very much for having devoted your time to us and for having given our listeners sufficient information. I wish you success in the following stages. God bless you.

[Mahallati] Thank you.

[Correspondent] You have just heard our interview with the Islamic Republic's representative to the United Nations. At this point I wish each and every listener success, health, and happiness. God bless you all.

KEYHAN on New Policies After Cease-Fire

PM1908144188 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Aug 88 p 2

[Editorial by Mehdi Nasiri: "Revolution's Diplomacy, Awareness, and Movement"]

[Text] The new conditions that have come about with acceptance of Resolution 598 and the imminent cease-fire on 20 August require new programs in many spheres of the revolution, both inside and outside. To speak of new programs does not mean that policies contradicting the lofty ideals of the revolution, upon which people

have so insisted, will be implemented. Rather, the intention is to keep the same lofty goals and ambitions. What it means is that the country's officials, keeping in mind the country's present condition, now have to implement new plans and programs that will not violate the fine, steadfast aspirations of the revolution.

We are now in a situation where the slightest oversight with regard to the internal and external enemy will deliver devastating blows to the country and the revolution. One area that must be watched most urgently and of necessity is the regime's foreign relations and diplomacy, especially with regard to trade and economic relations.

Now, after the establishment of a cease-fire, various countries, especially in the West, have started caravans—with a great deal of noise about friendship—to establish economic ties and to offer help in reconstruction. Italy, Japan, Britain, France, and others are included in this group. They have falsely expressed regret that they did not have relations with Iran. They perhaps have forgotten that they were slaves to the United States when it came time to put economic and political pressures on the revolution with regard to Iraq. Some of them even unilaterally canceled old and standing contracts.

Never more obvious is the mercenary way the aggressive and Western countries regard the Third World, especially Iran. Any hesitation about this would be naive.

We asked seven foreign journalists who had participated in the conference of aggression and defense if Western policy toward Iran would change following the acceptance of Resolution 598. Most of those present said: "The real and dangerous war of the revolution against the West has just begun!"

It is obvious that the war now is no longer a military one, but an economic, cultural, and political war of the aggressors and the West against the present-day Islamic movement. The assassination of 'Alamah 'Arif Husayni brought to mind the strong suspicion that the United States and the Soviet Union will undertake aggressive and terrorist actions to destroy revolutionary figures, along with a cultural, political, and economic assault. This is a very heavy responsibility for the Muslim and revolutionary elements, especially the Iranian officials.

Our war against the world aggression, especially the United States, now has moved from a military one to a hidden economic-political one. This is where the great danger lies. To remove doubts from the peoples' minds, officials must take firm steps and implement basic and revolutionary policies to assure the revolution's supporters both inside and outside the country.

This author is not one to regard with suspicion all diplomatic, friendly, and political relations. He also does not doubt for one second the honesty of the country's high-level officials, but he is very wary of those who are suspicious of the nation's officials. Now all of this means that we must not lose touch with the very real dangers facing us. We should gently remind our government officials once in a while.

There is a passage in the imam's hajj message which should always be remembered by our government officials: "The important point we must remember and the one thing that we must put first in our relations with foreigners is just how far our enemies and world engulfers are willing to tolerate us and how far they are willing to accept our independence. Without a doubt, they recognize no boundaries other than total abandonment of our beliefs. The holy Koran says they will never stop fighting against you unless you give up your religion. Whether we want it or not, the Zionists, the United States, and the Soviet Union will be after us to sully our religious dignity and our ideological identity."

The above passage is a warning and an invitation to awareness concerning our enemies—to destroy any optimistic feelings we might have about them. This awareness can take shape within the framework of an active diplomacy based on Islamic and revolutionary principles.

To face history's tricksters, we too must have tricks up our sleeves. We must not give points without first taking them. Giving and getting points must never compromise the revolution's principles.

Until such time as Zionism believes in the slogan, "From the Nile to the Euphrates" and while the American and Soviet imperialists are poised with knives to slice up and divide the Islamic and Third Worlds, we too are ready to liberate the collective Islamic energy throughout the world. We will not rest until the world engulfers are destroyed. This is the basic and vital philosophy of the revolution and nothing else.

UN Envoy in Geneva Discusses POW's, MIA's

LD2008214588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0746 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Interview with Sirus Naseri, UN representative in Geneva, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] [Passage omitted] One question several of our listeners asked by telephone concerns the number of men missing in action whose names are not among the POW's. The United Nations and other international bodies have stated they should be included among the POW's, and they have not been martyred during the war. What action has Iran taken in this connection so that when the POW's return to the country, those missing in action will also be among those who would return to the Islamic homeland?

[Naseri] I should say that the issue of POW's and the MIA soldiers has different dimensions and is rather peculiar. This issue is being followed up by our officials. In the meetings we had with high-ranking Iranian officials both before and after Resolution 598 was issued, they always emphasized that special attention should be paid to this issue so the families of the POW's and the MIA's who played a fundamental role in the war with their patience and self-sacrifice would know what is going on and so that their problems would be investigated in the shortest possible time. At the moment, too, with our new review, we hope that the POW's are exchanged as early as possible, followed by the MIA's.

In the past few years we have followed the MIA issue with great care and as far as we have been able. Their names, their situation, and the date when they disappeared have been carefully recorded by the Iranian Red Crescent. We have brought up the list of their names in the past through the Red Cross and the United Nations and have followed it up. Unfortunately, in the past we have not had many useful results, due to the fact that Iraq did not cooperate in this field. In the discussions we had in New York, one of the issues raised was that of the POW's, and Dr Velayati very seriously brought up the point that we do not have the full list of the (?evacuated) POW's and that there are a large number of MIA's for whom many people are waiting; their situation should be clarified.

In the discussions we will have in Geneva we will seriously raise and follow up the MIA issue both in our discussions with the UN secretary general and the Red Cross. Whether all of them are among the POW's is something that should be clarified during the discussions we will have with the Red Cross as the result of their investigation. However, what has been proven to us so far and what the international committee of the Red Cross also admits is that Iraq has not registered large number of POW's and has hidden them in various camps and is keeping them. Therefore, we foresee that, God willing, we can find some of those MIA's in [words indistinct]. This is what we hope.

[Correspondent] Our next question is: What is Iraq's intention in doing this, in declaring some of the POW's as MIA's and not registering them?

[Naseri] Unfortunately, this is also one of the realities of war. Although the issue of POW's is a human issue, and international law has made a very clear ruling regarding this matter and has clarified the situation, the POW's can be used as an instrument for political ends. Unfortunately, in view of Iraqi actions during the past few years, we know that Iraq resorts to any means available.

Perhaps the motive has been that by keeping the names of the POW's secret and by refusing them any contact with their families, Iraq can use this as a source of pressure, so the families here may get in touch with the officials and follow up the issue, and so Iraq might gain something from this. Iraq did not obtain any results from doing so, and we hope that this will restore its sanity and that it will not further pursue its political games in this human issue. This will not have any results, and perhaps Iraq will now realize that this may be turned into a means of pressure against it.

[Correspondent] Mr Naseri, Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani, who was just talking to our colleague, said in his remarks that we will no longer turn our back on the world in our foreign policy. I would like to see what role this sentence will have in connection with the activities of the Foreign Ministry. In other words, what do you do in connection with this issue?

[Naseri] I did not clearly him say that we will no longer turn our back, in those words. He referred to a very important point, which is the nature of the revolution. During the past few years, a number of countries, especially the major countries of the world, behaved very badly toward us. In general, they were not intent on establishing balanced relations, based on mutual interests. On the contrary, they tried to revive the former situation. Revolutionary Iran and our revolutionary nation would not tolerate such a situation. As a result, we had a very clear, explicit, and decisive response to them. It is also very natural and clear that the former attitude may not continue.

At the moment, despite some of the foreign propaganda which claims that Iran needs these relations under the present conditions, they in fact wish to satisfy and explain their own general condition and their own public opinion. This is particularly true of some Western countries. In the course of many years they mobilized their own public opinion against Iran due to their hostility and their aims. Now that they wish to solve their problem, they are faced with a major difficulty with their parliaments, their public opinion, and their media. They are forced to raise the issues so that they may explain their new policies.

It is clear, however, that it has been those countries that have always wanted to have relations with Iran, and under the present conditions they are trying to have relations much more than before. They know that if a lasting peace were to be established in the region, Iran will have to play the most major role, due to its geopolitical, territorial, and political position in this critical region, and also because, under new conditions, we have a nation that is very powerful and enjoys great strength. It is no longer that luxury-seeking nation of the former years, which was only interested in living better.

This nation has profound beliefs, and it will remain steadfast for the sake of these beliefs. This has created a very resilient nation in this region, and they know that if they wish not to have relations with such a country, any policy they wish to pursue in the region will not achieve any results. If they see something in which they are

interested, even their legitimate aims will be difficult to achieve. Under the present conditions, we provide them with the opportunity to have relations with us on an equal basis.

In the past few years it was not the case that we did not have any relations with the world. You know that we had very strong relations with the deprived, Third World countries, and we expanded those relations. We also had relations with many of the major countries, in both in the Western and Eastern camps. There are only a few countries that had problems with us. It is only those few countries that have now found an opportunity to have their former positions reviewed, both in the region, as well as those countries, especially in the West which acted very badly toward us during that period.

[Correspondent] We hope that, as Mr Hashemi- Rafsanjani said and as other officials have also said on different occasions, in order to have relations with those countries, we will never trample upon the sacred and precious principles and goals of the Islamic revolution.

[Naseri] This is a very definite and fundamental point, and there is no doubt about it. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Naseri, we have little time before the end of the program. With your permission, we would like to ask you, as the final question, how long will the Geneva negotiations last, and would you outline the latest efforts of the Foreign Ministry regarding these negotiations?

[Naseri] It is not currently possible to estimate the length of the negotiations. However, it is quite clear that we have a series of preliminary discussions in Geneva that we hope will bear some fruit. The basis of these include the secretary general's proposal and the selection of specific times for starting and concluding the implementation of of the resolution's articles. There has been considerable progress in the earlier discussion, which is now reaching its final stages. It will possibly succeed as a result of discussions that may take place before Geneva. A series of other discussions will deal with solving the disagreements between the two countries or concern the implementation of some of the resolution's articles such as determining the responsibility for starting the war or determining the cost; each of these issues may need negotiations at various stages.

Therefore, negotiations may not continue until final agreement has been reached on all articles and may be undertaken by other sources, and discussions may continue in other venues. In any case, it would be unrealistic to assume that all the issues related to the resolution will reach their final conclusion in just a couple of weeks. We have much more work to do and believe that various issues related to the resolution will have to be reviewed for several months. As far as Geneva is concerned, during a period of a few weeks it may be possible to reach results regarding what is urgent at this stage.

The Foreign Ministry's responsibiity in this respect is to follow all related issues. It is a difficult task, and because of this we have asked various organizations and officials to help us and have invited the respected officials of the Islamic Republic, those that have any expertise in this respect....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Yes, they are supposed to come and cooperate.

[Naseri] Yes, they exist and are currently working on the various dimensions of the matter. We are using many experts across the country, experts who have gained experience during the course of the existance of the Islamic Republic; some of the people we have had in international organizations may now be the most experienced around the world since there are few countries faced with so many issues and crises, and thus they are very experienced and have learned all the intricacies of the work. We have also invited experts with previous experience in Iran and Iraq who are currently participating in issues relating to the resolution's implementation.

[Correspondent] Mr Naseri, thank you very much, we have only about 4 minutes left. I do not have any further questions. However, as your last remarks [words indistinct] what do you want to tell our people?

[Naseri] We get our guidance from people. It is not really our position to address the people as such. However, what we can mention, to the extent that it is my responsibility, is that our people can be certain that current work in the new condition, most of which is political work, is being carried out in the best possible way, strongly and with all our capability and that we will not forget all the blood spilled on this way, nor the bravery of the people, their sacrifice and what has been done by the combatants, their families, or what has been established by the people of Iran in general as a result of their resistance. We know that we have a great responsibility and hope that, with the continuation of popular support and support of the combatants, we can continue the work in the best possible way.

[Correspondent] Thank you for participating in our program. We hope for your victory, success, and pride and for your colleagues in the European offices of the United Nations.

[Naseri] Thank you.

Official on Accords Regarding Ship Searches

LD2108132288 Tehran IRNA in Engish 1310 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 21, IRNA—As per international laws and conventions the Islamic Republic has a right to intercept and inspect ships belonging to hostile countries, and will continue to observe this right at the

Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz until a stable peace is realized in the region, said Legal Affairs Director-General of the Foreign Ministry Hoseyn 'Abdi Abiyaneh here Saturday.

He reminded, international laws state that before conclusion of a peace accord and during cease-fire between two hostile countries, it is a natural right of the beligerents to prevent the opposing party from strengthening up its military might.

Iranian Navy Saturday intercepted an Iraqi cargo ship "Khawla" Saturday but allowed it to proceed later.

Abiyaneh reiterated that based on international laws, checking of ships during cease-fire and before the conclusion of a peace accord is a normal practice and well within law, because cease-fire only means cessation of military operations till stable peace is established.

The Foreign Ministry director general said Iran-Iraq borders have been clearly specified according to the 1975 Algiers accord and its attached protocols.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, he said the Iraqi regime refrained from signing the protocols and therefore demarcation of the border lines was postponed with Baghdad's invasion of the Islamic Republic.

In an interview on Channel 1 of the Islamic Republic Broadcasting (IRIB) Saturday night, Abiyaneh stated Iran-Iraq borders are clearly defined according to the Qasr-e Shirin, Zahab and related treaties especially the protocols of 1913, 1914 and 1937. Finally on June 13 1975 in Baghdad the two countries inked the 'Good-neighbourly State Border' Accord specifying their joint boundary, he added.

In accordance with international laws especially Article 62 of the 1969 Vienna Convention, all treaties defining international borders are valid, permanent and unbreachable. Even Article 4 of the Algiers accord signed on June 23, 1975, confirms this fact, he said.

As per Article 102 of the U.N. Charter, the said treaty has been registered at the U.N. Secretariat bearing numbers 14903 to 14907 and is therefore fully credited as an international treaty.

He recalled, that the said accord and related protocols including border maps were signed by representatives of Iran, Iraq and Algeria under the auspices of the U.N. and were published officially under the U.N. number 1017 dated 1976, which is an obvious document on internationally recognised borders between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministry official referred to several documents signed by the two countries following the Algiers Accord, which clearly specify the international recognised border.

On the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) and its strategic geographical location he said the estuary is formed by the confluence of many streams originating in Iranian and Turkish territory which ultimately emerge as the region's two important rivers the Tigris and the Euphrates. These two in turn he said merge at Al-Qurnah in southern Iraq and further downstream on their way to the Persian Gulf are joined by the River Karun flowing from the Iranian side thereby forming the Arvand river estuary which forms part of the two countries international border.

He referred to the protocol affixed to the 'Good-Neighbourly State Border' Accord (inked June 13, 1975 in Baghdad) which he said clearly defines the Iran-Iraq river border.

Article 6 of the Accord on Shipping in the Arvand River Estuary dated December 26, 1975, and the terms of the joint office known as the 'C.B.C' to exploit the waterway is the most practical and legal basis for dredging activities, said Abiyaneh.

The document clearly determines that dredging activities are to be carried out jointly by C.B.C. on behalf of the two countries and possibly under the auspices of the United Nations, concluded the Foreign Ministry director-general for legal affairs.

Bandar-e Khomeyni Now Open to Cargo Ships
LD2208131588 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 22, IRNA—Two cargo ships carrying 33,000 tons of wheat and several thousand tons of sugar berthed at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni port on the second day of the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq Sunday.

Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya, the governor general of Khuzestan Province and several port, railway and Iran Air officials inspected the ships at the port.

Seyyed Kya and the officials accompanying him also visited installations of the port including a 70,000-ton wheat silo presently under construction. The 8-billion-rial ($114 million) transit silo is the first in the country linked to the railway network, and is capable of discharging a 40,000-ton ship within 48 hours.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Madad, head of the ports and shipping organisation said Imam Khomeyni port can handle 15 cargo ships loaded with goods such as rice, sugar and iron at the same time.

Seyyed Kya referring to the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and Imam Khomeyni ports said the two ports damaged by Iraqi attacks during the war, will be (?gradually) rebuilt. The Arvand River will also be dredged up by both Iran and Iraq according to the 1975 Algiers accord, he added.

In another development, the road and transport minister announced that Ahvaz airport will be re-opened to passenger traffic in the next two weeks.

Shipping Official on Contract With USSR, Plans

LD1908133988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Report on interview with managing director of the Port and Shipping Organization; date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] The Port and Shipping Organization (PSO) managing director said: Work has started along the country's northern and southern coasts to build six new multipurpose fishing ports with over 15 billion rials in credit. Referring to the need to make more use of the ports for exports and for importing the country's essential requirements, he stressed the need to reconstruct ports which were heavily damaged during the imposed war. He added: Also, this year more than 8 billion rials in credit have been allocated to continue expansion work and the completion of Imam Khomeyni, Shahid Raja'i, and Bushehr ports and three multipurpose fishing ports.

Regarding the Iran-USSR joint shipping line, the PSO managing director said: Thanks to a bilateral agreement, a contract for the purchase and building of two merchant ships has been signed with the USSR at the cost of over $10 million. The launch of these two vessels will mark the effective start of shipping between the ports of Anzali, Nowshahr, and Baku.

Referring to the point that it is particularly important to utilize railway lines to transport goods from ports to domestic consumption centers, he emphasized: On the basis of the PSO's policy, most of the country's ports, which have special superior qualities, will be linked to the country's railway network.

About the port of Anzali, he said: Work has begun on erecting special systems for exporting oil via the Caspian Sea. This task will be completed soon, and the port of Anzali will be ready to export oil.

Zargan Power Station Reconnected to National Grid

LD2108110288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Quoting the Energy Ministry, IRNA reports: In connection with the cease-fire, at 2145 last night the Zargan Power Station was reconnected to the national grid.

The Zargan Power Station is situated in Ahvaz. A few years ago, when the imposed war and Iraqi attacks were stepped up, it was disconnected from the national grid. The power station, with a capacity of more than 140 megawatts, was rebuilt by domestic specialists in difficult wartime conditions and readied for operation. Following the declaration of the cease-fire, it was reconnected to the grid.

Commentary Views Iraqi 'Hue and Cry'

LD2108132188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1049 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] On the first day of the implementation of an official cease-fire between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, Iraqi officials and that country's propaganda organs have started an extensive propagandistic hue and cry about the Islamic Republic of Iran's violating the official cease-fire between the two countries.

The official IRAQI NEWS AGENCY claimed that on the central front, 3 hours after the official cease-fire began, an Iraqi soldier was shot and killed from a great distance by Iranian forces. In the meantime, one of the commanders of the UN observer forces, in responding to that claim, said to reporters in Baghdad: We have not received a confirmed report in that regard, and there have not been any problems or cease-fire violations so far; the regulations are being observed.

In another instance, the Iraqi regime's foreign minister claimed that the action of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and Air Force in inspecting an Iraqi ship showed a lack of respect for the cease-fire between the two countries. In this connection, the Iranian naval commander announced that, until the establishment of a comprehensive peace on the basis of international rights with regard to the sovereignty of a country in its own waterways, Iran would use the right to inspect ships and that the inspection of ships, in accordance with existing guidelines, has been undertaken on a regular basis for all ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz during the last few years.

In that same connection, yesterday several vessels of the Islamic Republic also sailed along the Arvand River. The Arvand is the border betwen Iran and Iraq and, on the basis of the Algiers Agreement, the way it is used is on the basis of the line dividing the waterway in half.

The question can be posed here: Will the raising of such claims by the Iraqi regime, especially 1 day after the commencement of the official cease-fire, be effective in advancing the peace process in the future or will it have no other result than fomenting tension in the psychological and political atmosphere between the two parties?

On the basis of propaganda from the Iraqi News Agency and foreign radio stations, during the days before and after the implementation of the cease-fire, forced celebrations have been held in Iraq. The Iraqi regime is trying, with such forced celebrations, to show that the end of the war is victory for the Baghdad rulers. Undoubtedly, any war will end, and any war's end can be

welcomed because of the fact that war cannot be considered to be a natural situation. However, the Iraqi regime should answer the following question: Did they begin the war just so that they could celebrate its end one day?

Undoubtedly, what is important for world public opinion is whether the Iraqi regime achieved the aims for which it began the war, such as bringing down the Islamic government, the dismemberment of Iran, and the conquering of parts of the Islamic homeland. Is that why it is celebrating? Or are the celebrations of the Iraqi regime for the sake of the $70 billion debt and the hundreds of thousands of killed or wounded in that country? In fact, is it a celebration by the Iraqi nation or that country's regime? These are questions that occur to the Iraqi people and undoubtedly the Iraqi regime's reply to the questions cannot be other than an admission of the defeat of its aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Musavi Rules Out Compromise With Foreign Powers
LD2108100688 Tehran IRNA in Enlish 0956 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said there can be no compromise between Islam and global arrogance. The Islamic Republic's objective both at time of war a l peace is to keep Islam alive, he added.

The prime minister who is currently touring the western parts of the country Sunday morning met officials and Friday prayer leaders of Bakhtaran Province and discussed local issues.

Praising the role of ulema both in the materialisation of the revolution and afterwards, he said that the close relationship should continue to exist between the executive branch of the government and the ulema.

He called for heavy investments in war-ravaged border regions during the reconstruction phase and said the government shoulders a great responsibility in this respect.

In post-war period, he added, foreign powers and foreign companies will try to expand their influence in Iran, but in order to safeguard the revolution, such efforts must be severely resisted, he stressed.

He said that Iran through exploiting its own resources and employing its manpower will be able to stand on its own feet and rebuild its economy. Foreign exchange must be channeled to mother industries and major projects, he added.

Warns on Foreign Designs
LD2108171288 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 21 Aug 88

["Musavi Says Foreign Bids for Reconstruction May Be Predatory Designs"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 21, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here today Iran should watch against being lured by deceptive insinuations of the ruling powers which, he said, are meant at plundering the country's resources by re-establishing mutli-national companies in Iran. He said the Iranian people can reconstruct their country without foreign expertise.

Musavi who was talking to a gathering of local people here said that Iran's policies for running the affairs of the state may not be compromised.

Elsewhere in his talks the premier adverted to a siege of a segment of Bakhtaran Province earlier this month and attributed it to the arrogant world powers, and said the architects of the invasion by the MKO's [Mojahedin-e Khalq] did not predict such mass resistance as they faced in the province.

Musavi stressed the Iranian people will continue to assert their demand for dealing out universal justice and that for the same reason they have to cope with conspiracies and plots against themselves.

Larijani Discusses Algiers Agreement
NC1908190388 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 19 Aug 88

["Fourth part" of report on interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, by unidentified correspondents on 13 August—place not given]

[Text] Responding to a question about the revival or renewal of the Algiers Agreement and this pact's place in the negotiations for the implementation of UN Resolution 598, Dr Larijani said: Renewal of the agreement would be meaningless because it already exists; it is an international agreement and valid according to its clauses. Such an agreement cannot be abrogated unilaterally. Tearing up the agreement before TV cameras does not make it null and void. Therefore, the 1975 Algiers Agreement is regarded as an official document that defines relations between the two countries. The existing disputes connected with this agreement must be resolved within its framework.

Brother Larijani then explained the real reasons for the disputes between the two countries. He said: The war did not break out because of border disputes, because either party laid claim to the territory of the other, or because of the demarcation of the land and water borders. All this was explained in detail in the 1975 Algiers Agreement. Therefore, these are not the reasons for dispute between

the two countries. In my view, the dispute arose for political reasons, not [words indistinct]. For this reason, there is no dispute between the two countries, and there is no need for concluding a new agreement in this regard. [words indistinct]

Larijani Discusses Relations With U.S., Britain

NC2108194688 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Aug 88

["Sixth part" of report on interview with Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs, by unidentified correspondents on 13 August—place not given]

[Text] Responding to a question on the Islamic Republic's policy toward the United States, in view of its past record of interference, Brother Larijani said: Despite rumors and fabricated, vague airs, the Islamic policy toward the United States is obvious and frank. It is in no way vague or secret. The United States adopted a steady, hostile policy toward Iran following the triumph of the Islamic revolution. The United States interfered in Iran's domestic affairs and placed obstacles in its way without having any right to do so.

He added: It is, therefore, illogical for there to be talk about normalizing relations with the United States and discussions with its officials as long as its policy remains unchanged. Under these circumstances, such discussions (?will be of no avail). He emphasized that no Iranian official or politician held any discussions with the [word indistinct] Americans because Iran believes that discussions under the current circumstances are not in the interests of [words indistinct].

Regarding the preliminary measures which the United States must adopt in this regard, Dr Larijani said: Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has outlined the broad lines. [words indistinct] Iraq's aggression against Iran, stop its various actions against Iran, and abandon its efforts to besiege us. This would be in the interests of the United States because the Islamic Republic has no need for these relations. However, if these preliminaries are met, then it would be clear that the United States is sincere in its policy.

Regarding the Iranian-British discussions, Larijani said: They are progressing. The British Government has expressed an earnest desire to improve relations. If it continues this policy, then our relations with Britain will be similar to our relations with the other EC members.

Ayatollah Montazeri Speaks to Lebanese Students

LD2208140688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Following the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim, a Lebanese Hizballah clergyman, and the pressure brought to bear on members of Lebanese Hizballah—namely, the capture of thousands of their members, the repeated arrests of Hizballah members by certain Lebanese factions, and also those factions' preventing Hizballah from engaging in armed struggle against usurper Israel in southern Lebanon—this morning more than 80 Lebanese clerical students and ulema at Qom Seminary sent letters describing these incidents to Imam Khomeyni and the deputy leader [Ayatollah Montazeri], as well as to the Iranian authorities.

After marching to and gathering at Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's house, they met him and expressed their concern over the current situation in southern Lebanon. They recounted the injustices committed against Hizballah and the struggling clergy of Lebanon.

Then, while expressing condolences for the martyrdom of Imam Husayn and his children and followers, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: I praise and thank the Lebanese ulema and clerical students for their motivation and sense of responsibility toward Islam and the Islamic movement in their country. You gentlemen should be aware that we are born to be tried and tested. The road to truth is paved with obstacles and hardship. [passage omitted]

You gentlemen should say all you can in defense of truth. Even if it is fruitless, you will have done your duty. Do not be disappointed. I am no more than a clerical student, but I will do all in my power to help you. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: It is regrettable that Muslims have an inferiority complex, are looked down on by the enemies of Islam, and overlook their Islamic and humanitarian individuality and value. As long as this state exists among us, 3 million Zionists will dominate the Muslims. Injustice and crimes are commited through pseudoclergymen who are puppets of royal courts, so Muslims cannot trust each other.

Why did the colonialist French (?Government) say, at the time of the occupation of Lebanon, that the Lebanese president should be a Christian for him to be of value to us? The French were talking nonsense. The Muslims have an absolute majority in Lebanon, and the fate of the Islamic country of Lebanon must be determined by Muslims. [passage omitted]

IRNA on Meeting

LD2208201388 Tehran IRNA in English 1917 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Qom, Aug. 22, IRNA—Some 80 Lebanese ulema and theological students residing in this holy city met with Ayatollah Hoseyn-'Ali Montazeri Monday and briefed him on the situation in Lebanon and the hostile acts perpetrated against Hizballah and combatant theologians in that country.

The meeting came a few days after the assassination of a prominent Hizballah alim Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh 'Ali Kurayyim, as well as the capture and arrest of thousands of Hizballah members by certain Lebanese factions and pressures exerted to prevent them from fighting Israel in south Lebanon.

Before their meeting with the future leader of the Islamic revolution, the Lebanese ulema and theological students had cabled a message to the founder of the Islamic republiic, Imam Khomeyni on the event, this morning.

Addressing the visitors, Ayatollah Montazeri offered his deep condolences to them over the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Husayn (A.S.), the third Imam of Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) household and lauded them for voicing concern about Islam and the Islamic movement in Lebanon.

Special mourning ceremonies were held by Shi'tes Muslims in Iran and elsewhere in the Islamic world on the eve of 'Ashura, the day Imam Husayn and 72 of his relatives and aides were martyred in Karbala' (61 A.H.).

Ayatollah Montazeri also called on the visitors to express their views in defence of justice as often as possible as an Islamic duty even if they did not prove effective.

The revered ayatollah regreted that millions of Muslims were ignoring their Islamic identity and dignity and humiliated by enemies of Islam. He cautioned that as long as such status exists among Muslims, three million Zionists will dominate them.

He also expressed regret that so many a crime are committed against Muslims through certain court mullah and that Muslims cannot trust themselves.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution strongly dismissed the decision (?imposed) by the french colonial rule over Lebanon that the Lebanese president should be a Christian and said in view of the fact that Muslims constitute the majority of the population they should decide on the fate of the Islamic country.

PRC Experts Participate in Trade Talks

LD2208121188 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 22, IRNA—Two groups of experts and managers of China's major firms met with deputy head of Mustazafan (Oppressed) Foundation Mahdi Karbasian here Sunday, and called for expansion of mutual trade exchanges.

Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Wang Benzuo who was also present in the meeting, expressed satisfaction with wide- scale economic and commercial relations between Iran and China, and announced his country's willingness for further expansion of these ties.

In reply Karbasian said his organization is keen to import machinery and industrial tools from China in return for exporting its products.

Pakistani Embassy Opens Condolence Book

LD1908105488 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—The Embassy of Pakistan, while expressing its deep grief and sorrow over the demise of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has opened a condolence book at the embassy.

In a statement released Thursday, the embassy said the book will remain open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday (Aug. 20-22) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

President Ziaul Haq was killed in a suspicious plane crash near the Indian border Wednesday. The U.S. Ambassador to Islamabad Arnold Raphel, as well as scores of ranking Pakistani military officials were also killed in the incident.

In related news, a report from New Delhi today suggested that a sophisticated time device may have caused the massive explosion aboard the C-130 Hercules transport plane which exploded minutes after take-off.

A UNI report quoting military and aviation experts said, the pilot of the C-130 transport aircraft could not transmit any message on his radio telephone system to the control tower at Bahawalpur Airport.

They said that some very sophisticated explosive time device seemed to have been placed on board. Other then the jet engines nothing else can explode automatically on board any aircraft. They pointed out that the Hercules was fitted with four turbo-prop engines which can not explode at all. Besides, the Hercules is the toughest aircraft with highest safety standards ever built.

About 2000 of such transport aircraft were presently flying with more than 50 air forces of the world and none have ever exploded in mid air, they said.

In another development, the Indian Government Thursday announced that President R. Venkataraman will represent India at the state funeral of President Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Some cabinet ministers, opposition leaders and members of Parliament will also accompany the president during the visit.

Maulana Abdullah Bukhari, imam of Jama Masjid [name and title as received] in a condolence statement has expressed his sympathy with the family of General Ziaul Haq. He termed the death of the Pakistani president as a loss to the Muslim world.

Reza Pahlavi Sends Message on Cease-Fire

LD2108164488 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, as you are aware, following 8 years of bloody and useless war, at 0630 Tehran time today a cease-fire went into effect along the Iran-Iraq border according to UN Resolution 598. Reza Pahlavi, king of Iran, has sent the following message to the Iranian nation:

Dear compatriots, with the official cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, the first step toward talks has been taken. Should these occur, our youth will no longer become the victims of the personal and inauspicious goals of the leaders of the usurping regime and if there is anything left for development in our developed country or if there is anything left from the immense achievements during the 57 years before the blight of Khomeyni, then it will no longer be destroyed under the hail of missiles and bombs.

However, this hope will only be realized when the Iranian nation uproots the cause of this immense calamity and brings to justice the treacherous and shameful people who are responsible and punishes them for their inauspicious actions. These murderers ruling over Iran must explain to the nation why they did not accept a cease-fire on the basis of national power and international principles when the zealous Iranian Army, despite all the mistreatment it had suffered, forced the enemy out of the homeland's pure soil through national pride and love of the homeland.

These people continued the war for a further 6 years for their private, inauspicious, and satanic goals, using empty and stupid slogans such as "The Way to Jerusalem Is Through Karbala'," and "Export of the Revolution and Establishment of the Islamic Republic Across the World." It thereby left over 1 million people dead, more than 9 million people wounded, disabled, or refugees, and bankrupted a rich, developed country with a deep culture, leaving it isolated, sorrowful, and without honor. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and sisters, with the establishment of the cease-fire, the extremely sensitive and destiny-making process of peace has begun. The future for an honorable peace, with such a painful start in the hands of a regime with the black record of the past 10 years showing its complete incapacity, is very dark and bleak. The Iraqi Government must understand that it should not use the weakness and incapacity of Iran's ruling regime in the peace process. Any agreement that endangers the rights of the Iranian nation—which have been openly and clearly trampled upon by the Iraqi Government—or does not justly put right the immense damage suffered by the Iranian nation, or any agreement that does not clearly respect and implement all the articles of the 1975 Algiers Agreement will not be acceptable to the Iranian nation. It is certain that such an agreement cannot ensure lasting peace between the two countries.

I repeat my statement again for all dear compatriots and all those who believe in popular rule and democracy: Under these very difficult and critical conditions in our country, put aside selfish ideas and and disagreements for the sake of Iran and Iranians and unite for a lasting and extensive struggle, which is what the Iranian Nation wants. With reliance on the Lord Almighty and complete trust in you, my dear compatriots, I shall continue by your side until our dear homeland has been saved. May God keep Iran.

Officers Reportedly Facing Court Martials

LD2208163788 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Sources close to high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic have been quoted as saying that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has asked Ruhollah Khomeyni to sign a circular in which the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces is instructed that those responsible for the latest defeats on the front, including the officers and guards corps commanders, should be identified in order to face court martials.

2 Earth Tremors Shake Tehran 23 Aug

LD2308084288 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—A tremor measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale shook the Iranian capital at 00:53 hours Tuesday (21:23 GMT Monday).

The seismological base of Tehran's Geophysics Institute registered the earthquake at 80 kms from the base but did not give exact location. It said they were waiting for more information from other seismological bases in the country.

A second tremor measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale shook Tehran at 09:01 hours local time (05:31 GMT) this morning.

According to Tehran's Geophysics Institute the tremor registered 100 kms from the center again with no exact location. There were no immediate reports on possible casualties or damage.

Nepal

Official Challenged on Earthquake's Death Toll

BK2208121588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 22 (AFP)—The official death toll in the devastating earthquake in Nepal rose to 450 Monday as relief operations continued with some affected areas reported to be short of medical staff and supplies.

Minister of State for Home Niranjan Thapa told a press conference here that 450 people were killed and 583 seriously injured, 106 of them critically, in Sunday's pre-dawn quake which caused widespread damage in several districts.

Journalists challenged the figure, notably pointing to the 500 to 1,000 people reported to have been inside a market in the town of Dhankuta which was left in ruins after the quake struck at 4:39 a.m. Sunday (2309 GMT Saturday). Official sources said everybody inside the Siluwa Bazaar perished.

The latest official toll was 281 dead and more than 1,000 feared injured, state-run Radio Nepal reported late Sunday.

The government has rushed doctors to affected areas, some of which were reported to be short of medical staff and supplies.

Mr. Thapa, who visited badly-hit areas late Sunday, said: "We are concentrating mainly on rescuing the injured persons and providing them with timely treatment, therefore we are not attaching much importance to the casualty figure."

"What we are more concerned about is the safety of the people," he added. "Many people may still be under the debris and waiting for rescue."

Asked whether any foreign nationals could have been among the dead, Mr. Thapa said he could not rule out the possibility.

(The quake also shook most of eastern and northeastern India, leaving between 200 and 600 dead in the eastern state of Bihar, press reports said. There has been no official toll in India.)

The quake, centred in eastern Nepal, measured 5.7 on the Richter scale according to officials in Kathmandu and 6.5 according to Indian officials.

It was the worst quake in the area since January 1934, when one measuring 8.4 on the Richter scale killed tens of thousands of people in Nepal and Bihar.

An earthquake measuring six on the Richter scale can cause severe damage in a populated area, while one measuring seven can cause heavy, widespread damage.

Pakistan

Further on Events Marking Ziaul Haq Funeral

Soviet Delegation Takes Part

LD2008175788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, 20 Aug (TASS)—Today the funeral for President Ziaul Haq, killed in a plane crash on 17 August, was held here. Representatives of over 70 countries, the United Nations, and other international organizations, including 30 heads of state and their deputies, came to Islamabad to see the Pakistani president off on his final journey. A Soviet delegation led by V.S. Astrauskas, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, took part in the funeral. The delegation laid a wreath on the grave of the deceased on behalf of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The same day, V.S. Astrauskas was received by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who has assumed the post of acting president of Pakistan. On behalf of the Soviet leadership, he expressed to the Pakistani leader profound condolences on the tragic death of General Ziaul Haq. Questions of Soviet-Pakistani relations and the situation in the region were touched on in a fundamental way during the conversation. The joint desire was expressed to develop good-neighborly relations between the USSR and Pakistan in the interests of Asian and international peace and security. Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister V.G. Komplektov, and Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan V.P. Yakunin also took part in the meeting.

Wu Xueqian Meets Ishaq Khan

BK2208025588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping, Zhao Ziyang, Yang Shangkun, and Premier Li Peng have reaffirmed their total support for Pakistan's national independence and sovereignty and expressed the hope that under the present government, Pakistan will develop economically and its security will be strengthened. The messages of the Chinese leaders were conveyed to Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan by Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian who met the former in Islamabad yesterday. He also expressed heartfelt condolences from the people and Government of China at the tragic death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno also met the acting president at the Presidency in Rawalpindi and offered condolences on behalf of the government and the people of Japan. Ghulam Ishaq Khan thanked the Japanese Government for this. The Japanese foreign minister also discussed bilateral relations, which, he said, are excellent.

Nepal's Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su, Ugandan Deputy Prime Minister Abubekar Mayanja, the spiritual leader of the Ismaili sect, Prince Karim Agha Khan; and ICO Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada had separate meetings with the acting president. They expressed profound grief and sorrow over the Pakistan president's death and said in the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the martyr, the Islamic world has lost a great leader.

Japan's Uno Arrives

OW2108043188 Tokyo KYODO in English 0402 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 21 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno arrived here early Sunday as the Japanese Government's envoy to the funeral of Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq who was killed in an air crash in Punjab on Wednesday.

Uno, who had been visiting Mexico, missed Zia's funeral held here Saturday due to engine trouble on a plane that carried him from New York. He will meet acting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan Sunday to deliver the Japanese Government's condolences for Pakistan's late president. Uno will also meet his Pakistani counterpart Sahabazada Yaqub Khan and convey Japan's support for Pakistan. Uno will leave here Sunday night for home.

Libyan Delegation Takes Part

LD2208132688 Tripoli JANA in English 0823 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Hannibal [August] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab delegation participated Saturday in the funeral of the departed President of Pakistan Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

The delegation met Mr. Ghulam I. Khan the acting president of Pakistan who conveyed to this delegation his personal thanks and greetings to the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for participating in the funeral and extending condolences to himself and the people of Pakistan.

The Libyan Arab delegation was given great attention and warm reception by the Pakistani authorities while staying in Islamabad.

Soviet Delegation Departs

LD2108092488 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0815 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, 21 Aug (TASS)—The Soviet delegation led by V.S. Astrauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which attended the funeral of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, left here today for home. The Soviet delegation was seen off from Islamabad airport by Wasim Sajjad, Pakistan's minister for justice and parliamentary affairs.

More Foreign Dignitaries Leave

BK2108041088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] More foreign dignitaries who attended the funeral of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the martyr, have left Islamabad for home. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left last night. The Saudi delegation led by the brother of King Fahd, Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, has left for home, seen off by Foreign Minister Sahbazada Yaqub Khan at the airport. The Bahraini delegation led by Finance Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim has also left last night. Federal Education Minister Wazir Ahmed Jogezai saw the delegation off.

Army Chief Wants Ziaul Haq's Mission Completed

BK2108153088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The chief of Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that the mission of the martyr president, Mohammad Ziaul Haq, will be completed and the torch lit by him for our guidance will be kept alight. He said this in Rawalpindi this morning while addressing the 13th batch of 140 Army hajj pilgrims on their return from Saudi Arabia. The chief of Army Staff paid glowing tributes to the late president for his services in promoting Islamic values in the country. He told the pilgrims to continue benefiting from the propitiousness blessed on them during the hajj and mold their life according to the Islamic teachings.

Chief Ministers Pledge To Continue Policies

BK2108095388 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] The caretaker chief ministers of the Punjab, NWFP, and Baluchistan have paid glowing tributes to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, shahid [martyr], and pledged to work for the fulfillment of his mission. Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi this morning, they noted that the constitutional change in the country is a fine example which should be followed in future.

[Punjab Chief Minister] Mr Nawaz Sharif said policies initiated by the shahid president would continue to achieve the desired goal.

[NWFP Chief Minister] Retired Lieutenant General Fazle Haq praised the departed leader for his efforts for Islamization as well as his policy on the Afghanistan problem and other issues.

[Baluchistan Chief Minister] Syed Zafrullah Khan Jamali said the majority of the people has always supported shahid president's efforts for the enforcement of Islamic system and preservation of solidarity and integrity of Pakistan.

Cabinet Meeting Reaffirms Policy on Afghanistan

BK2208162988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] The federal cabinet met under the chairmanship of Acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today, where prayers were offered for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs—General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and others—in the tragic air crash last week. Addressing the cabinet, the acting president paid high tribute to the

late president and expressed his determination to continue his mission to organize the nation collectively according to Islamic law. He said the holy mission of establishing an Islamic democratic welfare society in Pakistan will continue to top the list of the priorities of his government.

Respecting the wishes of the late president, which were in full conformity with the objectives and directive principles of the Pakistan Movement and the aspirations of the people, the government will provide immediate and inexpensive justice to the people in order to introduce the Islamic system of justice. He said that this is will be the most appropriate way to pay tribute to the martyred president.

The acting president said that with the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq the cabinet has lost a capable and spirited leader. Of course, the activities of life and affairs of the government will continue as usual without any disruption, for which the cabinet will have to utilize its best capabilities. He said he firmly believes that he will enjoy the unwavering support and cooperation of all the members of the cabinet, which will serve as a source of strength in performing his constitutional responsibilities. The acting president thanked the cabinet members for making the necessary arrangements for the funeral and burial of the late president and said that these arrangements were exemplary.

The cabinet reaffirmed the government's resolve to continue the present Afghan policy and that the Afghan refugees will continue to be given humanitarian assistance.

The cabinet also reviewed at length the law and order and internal situation and discussed the ways to maintain peace and amity during the month of Muharram.

The cabinet reviewed the economic situation in detail, and paid special attention to the prices of essential items and approved various steps to keep them at a reasonable level. In this regard, it was decided to withdraw the import surcharge and the iqra [a special tax for educational programs] levied on imported medicines. These surcharges and taxes on drugs imported for local production of medicines had already been withdrawn so as to bring down the prices of imported as well as locally-produced medicines.

The cabinet decided to convened the next Senate session on the 1st of next month. The meeting began with the recitation of Koran by Federal Information Minister Elahi Bux Sumro.

Acting Leader 'Could Well Become' President

BK2208023688 Hong Kong AFP in English
0220 GMT 22 Aug 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 22 (AFP)—Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who took over as Pakistan's acting head of state on the death of President Ziaul Haq last week, could well become the country's new elected leader, politicians and observers said Sunday.

Although he has yet to declare himself, Mr. Khan, 73, is generally viewed as a non-controversial figure who stands a good chance of being selected by the electoral college that will meet after general elections scheduled for November 16.

There is every likelihood that Mr. Khan, who is little known abroad, could come through the run-up to the elections without aligning himself with any party.

Fair and free elections with full participation by the country's political parties would improve his chances further, politicians said.

His career covers the history of Pakistan since independence in 1947. After serving as home secretary in 1948, he held ministerial office under successive civil and military governments, which valued his wide-ranging expertise.

Cool and clear-headed, Mr. Khan is a stickler for rules in official business. The elderly bureaucrat is a moderate, not an ideologist like General Zia, and he is known for his careful decisions, people close to him said.

"I have held important positions and seen high offices and have no ambitions," Mr. Khan said only a few months ago, after being re-elected Senate chairman, the post which made him acting president on Gen. Zia's death in a plane crash.

Mr. Khan's dignified manner during Senate proceedings earned him respect from all sides. Possessing an admirable command of rules and laws, he gave extempore rulings with confidence on major issues.

"He was equally respected by the opposition benches," an independent senator said.

A Pathan from the northwestern Bannu District's landed class, Mr. Khan is a man of few words.

His first press conference, held hours after the burial of Gen. Zia on Saturday, put the seal on the 11-year era of Gen. Zia.

Mr. Khan said he would act strictly in accordance with the Constitution on the crucial issue of whether political parties are to be given the unfettered chance of participation in the general elections on November 16.

He gave a broad indication that the elections may be held on a party basis.

The Armed Forces have remained in the background since Gen. Zia's death and do not appear to be upsetting the political and the constitutional process.

It is a long time since a Pakistan president has come from a minority province, and political parties have not reacted adversely to Mr. Khan.

Gen. Zia's main opponent, Benazir Bhutto, said her Pakistan People's Party would cooperate with Mr. Khan to make for a stable and constitutional transition.

Mr. Khan was secretary general for defense during the regime of Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Ms. Bhutto's father, before it was overthrown by Gen. Zia in 1977.

Mr. Khan is highly regarded by the Armed Forces because of his sound knowledge of the military.

A finance and economics expert, Mr. Khan also served as governor of the State Bank. He is known for his honesty and is considered a tough administrator. He is said to be keen on development but shuns experimentation.

UK Minister Welcomes News of Elections

LD1808143588 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1352 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Britain today welcomed the news that Pakistan is to go ahead with parliamentary elections in the wake of President Ziaul Haq's death in a mid-air explosion yesterday. The elections, on November 16, were the first step towards the establishment of democracy, said Foreign Office Minister Mrs Lynda Chalker. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Pakistan's ambassador to Britain, Mr Shaharyar Khan, said it could take some time to establish the cause of the plane explosion. Sabotage by internal dissidents or foreigners had not been ruled out. "Enemies of a person and of a state are there everywhere in every country," he said on the same programme.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennadiy Gerasimov, urged the new Pakistani leader to abide by the Geneva agreement and stop its military assistance to the mujahidin guerrillas in Afghanistan. And he dismissed as a "conspiracy theory" the suggestion that President Ziaul Haq might have been assassinated by the Soviet-backed Afghan secret service. [passage omitted]

People's Party Demands Party-Based Poll

BK1908125388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party has demanded that the scheduled 16 November elections are held under a caretaker government. The Central Committee of the party at its meeting in Karachi today also demanded holding of elections on party basis. The meeting was presided over by the party's chairperson, Mrs Benazir Bhutto.

Tehran Notes Shi'ites 'Martyred' in Clashes

NC2208184588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] After the plot by the Wahhabi elements of Al Sa'ud on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Husayn A.S., several cities in Pakistan were scenes of attacks on Shi'ite mourning ceremonies. Reports received indicate that during the clashes, which occurred in Parachinar, Hangu, Kohat, and an area in the northwest frontier, 3 Shi'ites were martyred and 53 were wounded, while several houses and shops belonging to Shi'ites were set on fire.

Troops Ordered on Alert for Religious Holiday

BK2308073388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 23 Aug 88

[By Martin Bennitt]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 23 (AFP)—Pakistan braced itself for trouble Tuesday, with troops on the alert against possible sectarian clashes at the start of a two-day national religious holiday. But the government denied strong rumours that martial law was about to be declared, accusing the "enemies of Pakistan" of trying to spread panic.

Eleven people were killed last weekend in clashes between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in tribal areas near Peshawar in a dispute over mourning for Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, killed in a plane crash Wednesday. The northwest town of Parachinar has been under partial curfew since a hand-grenade was thrown at a Sunni mourning procession, and access is restricted.

Press reports Tuesday said a cabinet meeting Monday received a full briefing on the law and order situation, and it was decided that troops would be kept on the alert but not deployed systematically.

Soldiers were seen on the streets of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, in advance of 'Ashura, or the anniversary of the death in battle of Imam Husayn, grandson of the Prophet Muhammed, on Wednesday. Members of the Shi'ite sect, which forms 20 per cent of Pakistan's 100 million Muslim population, traditionally proceed through the streets, notably in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar, whipping themselves and drawing blood as a sign of mourning. The majority Sunnis consider this un-Islamic and clashes have frequently occurred in the past, causing a number of deaths each time. Last year's processions, however, were strictly controlled by the authorities.

The situation is particularly tense this year, with 'Ashura coming only a week after the death of Gen. Ziaul Haq as a result of suspected sabotage, and less than three weeks after the assassination in Peshawar of 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, president of the Shi'ite religious and political party, Tehrike Nifaz Fiqah Jafria.

The country is already under a state of emergency, declared immediately after the death of President Ziaul Haq and 29 others, including senior military officers and the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Arnold Raphel, near Bahawalpur in eastern Pakistan. For the past two weeks local magistrates have banned religious teachers from entering sensitive areas to stir up antagonism. A curfew has also been in force in Quetta, capital of southwest Baluchistan Province, since August 13 after ethnic violence.

Rumours swept through the main cities Monday that martial law was about to be imposed. In Karachi, they were fuelled by the presence of troops. Government officials and the media received a flood of anxious telephone calls, and the authorities were finally forced to put out a statement on Monday denying the rumours. The statement said the rumours "are being spread by the enemies of the country in sheer desperation" following the smooth transition of power after the death of Gen. Ziaul Haq. It warned the public not to heed such "totally false, baseless and concocted" rumours and appealed for unity and calm.

Following the death of Gen. Ziaul Haq, the chairman of the Senate, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, took over as acting head of state. The Army, which plays a key role in Pakistani politics, has so far refrained from intervening, but informed sources said senior generals were keeping a close eye on the situation in the run-up to general elections scheduled for November 16.

Sri Lanka

Joint Security Committees Formed in Provinces

BK1908114188 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Joint security committees are being formed in all the provinces. Each committee will be headed by the chief minister and will consist of the chief secretary, the DIG [deputy inspector general of police] and the security forces commander of the province.

The minister of defense told LANKAPUVATH that all aspects of security in the provinces will be coordinated, dealt with, and implemented by these committees. The movement of personnel within the provinces as required by security consideration will also come within the purview of these committees.

Violence Continues Between IPKF, Tamil Groups

Indian Officer Killed

BK1908095788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, an Army lieutenant was killed and another injured yesterday evening when the patrol party was ambushed and fired at by suspected LTTE elements. The patrol party was returning after an inspection of two police posts in (Neelapola) area, 30 km from Trincomalee town.

LTTE Ordered To Kill Police

BK1908113388 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] India says the LTTE has ordered its cadres to kill all those people joining the police as well as leaders of other political groups so as to disrupt the political process and delay progress and normalization in Sri Lanka. An official release in New Delhi said that the Indian Government offer for a peaceful settlement had been repeatedly spurned by the LTTE.

The release pointed out that the LTTE had also been issuing terrorist threats and preparing for a prolonged war against the IPKF. Reports of their acquiring warlike stores and other sophisticated weaponry was a pointer in this direction.

The Indian statement said that topmost LTTE leaders have issued clear orders to kill, maim, and assassinate members of the public. Velupillai Prabhakaran himself has sent instructions to two of his area commanders of the Batticaloa area asking them to inform all to burn houses of EPRLF members without leaving a single one intact.

Meanwhile, the IPKF continued to operate in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and seven LTTE militants were apprehended along with arms and ammunition.

8 Indian Soldiers Missing

BK1908150788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1225 GMT 19 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 19 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Twelve LTTE terrorists were killed and 9 (?wounded), while one Indian officer and 7 soldiers were reported missing in a pitched battle between the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and the LTTE in the jungles east of Nithiakaikulam in Sri Lanka's Northern Province district of Vavuniya yesterday. Three IPKF soldiers were also wounded in the exchanges of fire.

An Indian High Commission spokeswoman told LANKAPUVATH that the battle with 60 LTTE terrorists took place as Indian troops raided a highly fortified LTTE base, heavily booby trapped and equipped with a network of trenches.

In a raid on another LTTE camp in the same area three soldiers were seriously wounded. One of them succumbed to his injuries. Three civilians were killed and three others wounded in a firefight between the IPKF and LTTE terrorists in Nallur, Jaffna. Three Central Police Reserve Force personnel received minor injuries. Meanwhile, Indian troops apprehended two terrorists at Kilinochchi.

At Pudukudirippu in Vavuniya one LTTE terrorist, Ganesan, committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule when captured by the IPKF while another cadre—Cyril's—suicide attempt was thwarted by Indian troops.

Round-Up of IPKF Operations

BK2108104188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0950 GMT 21 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerptst] Colombo, Aug 21 (LANKAPUVATH)—Reports from Madras received today by LANKAPUVATH state that the LTTE's political leader Siri has been arrested in Madras and is now being interrogated by the Indian police.

Among the senior LTTE cadres who are now being detained by Tamil Nadu authorities are its office manager in Madras, Castro and Maran, Chittu, Kanteepan Visu, Aravindan, Manoj, Viji and Daniel described as top rungers.

Meanwhile, official sources said that the Indian peacekeeping force [IPKF] continued its operation yesterday against the LTTE in the jungles of Nithiakaikulam close to Alampil in the northeastern coast of Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

One Indian soldier was wounded by the setting off of an anti-personnel mine during the raid on the LTTE hide out. One terrorist Mahendran was wounded as the IPKF overran the terrorist camp. Indian troops also destroyed improvised explosive devices (IED) in Vavuniya.

At Cheddikulam in the Wanni District a former PLOTE member D.Rajendran was adbucted at 2215 hours local time Friday by a rival gang. His bullet-riddled body was later found by the IPKF. A report from Tampalakamam in the Trincomalee District states that Arun alias Chandran was killed. Some documents and grenades were found near his body.

Vardhan, the LTTE leader of Alankerni, was apprehended by the IPKF while 2 Indian soldiers were wounded by an LTTE IED blast, 12 kilometres from Trincomalee town.

In Batticaloa, one civilian was killed in the crossfire during a shoot-out between the LTTE and the IPKF.

M.M.M. Laffir, a businessman of Kattankudi was shot and wounded by a gang of terrorists when he refused to give them 400,000 rupees which they demanded. Mr Laffir is undergoing treatment at the Kandy hospital.

In IPKF search and clear operations in the Jaffna Peninsula, one pair of binoculars, 2 locally made guns, 2 hand grenades, 2 IED's, 1 claymore mine were seized, and an LTTE terrorist with a cyanide capsule in his possession was apprehended.

'Checkmate-3' Operation Begins

BK2209120188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1125 GMT 22 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—Five LTTE terrorists and one Indian soldier were killed in a firefight 6 kilometers east of Nithikaikulam Saturday [20 August].

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that two IPKF soldiers were also wounded. The jungles in the area in and around Nithikaikulam in the Wanni sector in northern Sri Lanka are being combed by Indian troops in search of about 200 LTTE cadres who are reported to be in hiding.

Eighteen LTTE terrorists have been killed in operation "Checkmate-3" which commenced late last week.

Meanwhile, 13 hardcore LTTE cadres were captured in Batticaloa and Jaffna sectors. They included a fourth terrorist Franklin Suresh suspected to be involved in the Jaffna post office blast which killed one central reserve policeman.

Five terrorists were captured at Vantharamoolai and Ondachchimadam in Batticaloa and three terrorists were caught hiding in the Akkarayan reserve forest in Jaffna.

Sibenaran alias Selliah of the Raviraj gang of LTTE terrorists was captured and 2 improvised explosive devices weighing 20 kilograms each planted by him at a point 4 kms southwest of Point Pedro were recovered. Two grenades and one cyanide capsule were also found in the terrorist's possession.

Two terrorists, Thadi and Shanker, were captured at Ittavil and two hand grenades recovered from them. Shanker died a while later, probably due to having consumed cyanide.

An IPKF raid on an LTTE hideout in Jaffna resulted in the seizure of 2 locally made guns, 2,000 medicinal tablets and 25 antibiotic injections.

At Visvamadu, Arunandan was apprehended while two more terrorists were caught during a search and clear operation at Nallur. At Kankesanturai following a tip off, Indian troops raided an abandoned safe house and seized 58 tins of sea food.

LTTE terrorists burnt a civil bus at Iranamadu and fired two bursts to frighten the civilians, but fled when the IPKF reached the scene.

Three armed youth robbed 101 bags of mysoor dhal [pulses] and drugs worth 224,000 rupees at Periyavilathikulam after hijacking a truck transporting the essential goods from Colombo to Jaffna.